

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIV.]

HONGKONG. SATURDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1901.

No. 8.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	137
Leading Articles:—	
The Government and Mr. Osborne	138
The International Situation	138
The Fatal House Collapse in Cochrane Street	139
Submarine Warships	139
Public Speaking and International Politics	140
The Navy League and the Admiralty	140
Hongkong Legislative Council	141
Memorial to the late Queen Victoria	141
Meeting of the Typhoon Relief Fund Committee	142
The Insanitary Condition of Hongkong: Part II	144
The China Expedition Honours and Promotions	148
Macao	148
Swatow	148
Labour in the Philippines	149
Weihaiwei	149
Corea	151
Correspondence	150
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	151
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	152
Supreme Court	152
Hongkong and Port News	153
Commercial	154
Shipping	156

BIRTHS.

On the 7th July, at Chalfont St. Giles, the wife of A. G. WISE, of a son.
On the 15th July, at Sandakan, the wife of W. G. DARBY, of a daughter.
On the 27th July, at Yokohama, the wife of A. UNGER, of a son.
On the 28th July, at Foochow, the wife of J. W. ODELL, of a daughter.
On the 3rd August, at Shanghai, the wife of L. J. LUZ, of a son.
On the 8th August, at "Langlands," 112, River Valley Road, Singapore, the wife of ERNEST ALFRED HILCKES, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 29th July, at Ichigaya, Tokyo, in the presence of G. H. Scidmore, Deputy Consul-General of the United States, by the Rev. William Imbrie, D.D., assisted by the father of the bride, CHARLES SUMNER GRIFFIN, to MARY AVEY, daughter of the Rev. D. Crosby GREENE, D.D., of Tokyo.

On the 3rd August, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., GWENDOLINE MELITA, second daughter of the late Wilmer HARRIS, of Shanghai, to CHARLES PASEDAG ALLAN, of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

DEATHS.

On the 23rd July, at Seoul, Corea, WILLIAM DUPONT HUTCHISON, aged 43 years.
On the 29th July, at Foochow, the infant daughter of J. W. ODELL.
On the 5th August, at 72, French Bund, Shanghai, THOMAS FORD, for many years Wharfinger to the China Navigation Co., Limited, in his 67th year.
On the night of 11th August, at the Peak Hospital, FREDERICK W. WOOD, aged 42 years, of York, England.
On the 14th August, at No. 21, Belilio Terrace, FORTUNATO ANTONIO CORDEIRO, aged 34 years.
On the 14th August, at 1, Macdonnell Road, Kowloon, the wife of H. J. CRUZ, of a son.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The French mail of the 12th July arrived per M. M. steamer *Yarra*, on the 12th August (31 days); the American mail of the 17th July arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 17th August (28 days); and the English mail of the 19th July arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, on the 19th August (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

General Voyron is expected to reach Shanghai from Japan about the 22nd inst.

The promotion of Mr. John Newell Jordan to British Minister in Corea was gazetted this week.

The Chinese Government is reported to be intending to appoint the Manchu Tahaishima as its new Minister to Russia.

The Bill brought forward in the House of Commons by Captain E. G. Pretyman, M.P., Civil Lord of the Admiralty, with regard to Naval Works, provides for coaling facilities at Hongkong, our London correspondent informs us.

The *Noroe Vremya* in a recent issue expresses astonishment at Japan's action in fitting up a Naval Station at Maidzuru, which fronts Vladivostock. Commenting on the fact, the paper says Japanese preparations to drive the Russians from the Pacific Ocean will end in failure anyway.

The Americans are at last making a move to occupy the island of Mindoro, one of the Philippine group. It is the only place where the insurgents have been allowed undisputed sway up to date. Arthur Howard, an American deserter is said to be the insurgent governor of the island. His rule will probably be short now.

It is announced that instead of M. de Witte, the Russian Minister of Finance, his assistant, M. Romanoff, will tour the Far East. According to home reports M. de Witte has postponed his projected visit to Manchuria until next spring, partly on account of his health and partly because of the state of the country. He spends the summer at Wiesbaden.

The Kaiser cordially received Count von Walderssee at Hamburg this week on his return from China, kissing him on both cheeks. The display, however, was limited to the military, and the general reception was very quiet on account of the Empress Frederick's death. The Kaiser has bestowed on the Count the order *Pour le Mérite*, and has reappointed him Inspector-General of the Third Army Corps. Also the 8th Regiment of Field Artillery is in future to bear Count von Walderssee's name. A further decoration was the G.C.B. from King Edward.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Odessa states that Russia is endeavouring to colonise the Amur territory, and that she intends to plant a Cossack colony on the Chinese border.

The French Minister to Seoul is reported to have lodged the following demands with the Corean Government as an outcome of the rioting in Quelpart:—1. The Corean Government to pay 4,160 yen as compensation for damage done to the houses and property of the French missionaries in Quelpart. 2. 1,000 yen to be paid by the Corean Government for a Corean employee of a missionary, who was killed by the rioters. 3. The converts who were exiled in connection with the recent rioting not to be further punished. 4. A list of 50 rioters to be forwarded to the Corean Government for punishment according to Corean law.

Reuter telegraphed on the 12th inst. that the delay in the signing of the Protocol by the Powers is due to England objecting to Powers with microscopic commercial interests enjoying an equal voice with herself on the proposed international tariff revision commission. However, from our own correspondent's despatch, it seems that Dr. Morrison has telegraphed to the *Times* that the Protocol is practically ready for signature. The Ministers have agreed to Sir Ernest Satow's suggestion to exclude the clause about the appointment of an international commission relative to the conversion of duties to specific purposes. The list of exempted articles comprises gold and silver coin and bullion, foreign cereals, rice, and flour.

The *Universal Gazette* states that arising out of the crisis in the North and the opportunities offered generally, the Consuls of Great Britain, Russia, Japan and France at Hankow have informed Viceroy Chang Chih-tung of their intention to follow the example set by the German Consul of that port with regard to the extension made to the German Settlement, which was granted last year by the Chinese authorities. It appeared that the Germans pulled down about 150 yards of the city wall of Hankow, near the Tangchi gate, in the direction of their extension settlement, in consequence of which the Consuls of the other Powers, whose settlements are to be extended as well, desire also to pull down the city walls which at present limit their several settlement boundaries.

Lord Lansdowne states that negotiations concerning Article XI of the Joint Note regarding commercial facilities in China may possibly be transferred to a more convenient place than Peking, and that a conference may be held including representatives of all the great commercial interests in the East. We hope this means that the promise made by Sir Claude MacDonald, when British Minister at Peking, to the Chambers of Commerce at Hongkong and Shanghai that no change would be agreed to in the Tariff without reference to them, is about to be redeemed. It is evident from telegrams preceding the above that Sir Ernest Satow has not been in accord with his colleagues at Peking. Unfortunately there is a conflict of interests. Most of the Treaty Powers are careless of the Tariff, but very eager to finger the indemnity; Great Britain cares comparatively little for the indemnity, but is greatly concerned about the Tariff.

THE GOVERNMENT AND MR. OSBORNE.

(*Daily Press*, 10th August.)

It will have caused no astonishment that Mr. E. OSBORNE at the meeting of the Sanitary Board on the 8th inst. should have objected to the form of the statement in reply to his question as to how far the recommendations of the Board in certain matters had been carried out, or that he should have said the statement would convey absolutely nothing to the public. Nor can Mr. CHATHAM's explanation that the reply furnished to Mr. OSBORNE was a statement of the matter in a condensed form be deemed satisfactory. It may well be asked what reason the Government has for withholding from the Board, and therefore from the public, the actual statement drawn up by the Medical Officer of Health and the Secretary of the Board. This statement has, it seems, been drawn up in response to the request. Why then has it been kept secret? It is not presumably to save the public the trouble of "sitting down and wading through pages of extracts," for this is not a reason for foisting off on the Board the ridiculous condensation offered to them on Thursday. We hold different views from Mr. CHATHAM as to the amount of interest which the public takes in sanitary affairs. We do not say that a proper return, such as Mr. OSBORNE asked for, would be carefully read even by the majority of the public, but we do maintain that a large number of persons, not the less interested in the welfare and health of the Colony in that they do not hold posts under Government, would have read the return, however many extracts of Sanitary Board minutes and recommendations were included in it; and had Mr. OSBORNE's wish for parallel columns, showing the whole list of recommendations of the Board for the past ten years and the list of those that have been given effect to, been gratified, not only would the document have been received with general interest, but the Government case would either have been substantiated—or it would not. The Government now has in its possession the statement of Dr. CLARK and Mr. WOODCOCK. The Sanitary Board has sent in a request for its publication. We do not see how the Government can refuse, without incurring the damaging charge of suppressing evidence. In the memorandum on the Petition, which we have lately had from the pens of Messrs. STEWART LOCKHART, CHATHAM, and MAY, imputations were made against the Sanitary Board; in fact, that body was far more "damned"—to use Mr. MAY's expression—in the memorandum than it ever has been by any other criticism. To suppress its defence would be grossly unfair, but would result in "damning" the Government far more than the Board.

It seems to be a favourite theory in certain official circles that the recent petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies was signed by a mass of innocent, unsuspecting, but rather ignorant residents, led away by the sophistries of a few agitators, who were unscrupulous in the use they made of quotations from official documents and reckless in their statements. Such a theory, though an insult to the intelligence of the mass of the community, certainly is an unexpected tribute to the influence of the organisers of the petition. We are sure, however, that the latter make no claims to such powers as seem to be attributed to them. The question of sanitary reform in Hongkong has forced itself to the front owing to the natural course of events; the movement has not been engineered.

The British and foreign community, being unable to adopt an Oriental attitude of mind toward plague, has not been content to watch a disease, which first attacked the Colony in 1894, become an annual epidemic; and as filthy surroundings offer a favourable breeding-ground for the scourge a demand has arisen for more efficient sanitation in Hongkong. It would be simply fatuous to try to make out that sanitation could not be greatly improved here. The Government apologists recognise this as well as anyone, and therefore have thrown up, as it were, a triple line of defence against outside attack. They have alleged the constant opposition to reform, first of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, and secondly of the public Press. Beyond this they are willing to take refuge in the plea that the Sanitary Board is inefficient. We have dealt with the Government's reply already, and need not spend further time over it. But we should like to point out that it is no new discovery that the Board is inefficient. This has been maintained in the Press for years, and for this reason we have constantly urged that the Board should be reorganised and made a responsible body, in place of a mere debating society. The Government's champions, who are also members of the Sanitary Board, have probably their own theory as to why, in spite of their own presence, the Board has been able to do so little. Certain other members have the courage to court enquiry. The Board may have been inefficient through its own fault or because its suggestions were not accepted. The facts are all to be had for the seeking. A statement intended to elucidate the question has been prepared by two members who have been deemed suitable for the purpose. It rests with the Government to make the statement common property, if its desire to clear the matter up is genuine.

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

(*Daily Press*, 15th August.)

The lesson to be learned from the Boer War is apparently that, even beyond the wildest estimates, modern war is an expensive business; and this seems to have made some impression even amongst the most bellicose of the European Powers. Russia with her usual instincts of bluff has been trying to turn the position to her own advantage, but recently her ideas seem to have so far expanded that she finds that the suspicions of the other Powers are being aroused as to her real intentions. At all events there seems to be a more friendly disposition existing among the westerly governments, and affairs are being discussed on the whole with a better feeling and more mutual good-will than at any time during the last three years. This is to some extent foreshadowed in the formation at last, after many delays, of a practical code of arbitration at the Hague, and although it is not at all likely that any nation will before the millennium be prepared to submit any vital question to its judgment, there are almost daily little differences to decide, which without prejudice the countries concerned may submit to the Court when once they are convinced that it intends to act on impartial lines. As in railway and banking affairs a multitude of petty questions are always left to the respective clearing-houses to decide, so it is quite possible that without assuming to be an authoritative body, there are multitudes of petty questions, which if neglected might lead to grave misunderstandings, yet by passing through this international clearing-house may be made reducible to order and reason.

We only look, however, to the successful formation of the court as an indication that a better understanding is about, and an earnest that a better feeling has come to exist, which affords some prospect that no nation will, for the present at least, wilfully disturb the peace of the world. There are of course grave dangers ahead; one of these is the disturbed state of Russia, and the fact that not a few of her statesmen would willingly plunge the Empire into war in the hope of thereby fastening on it a despotism already unbearable. Such statesmen existed round NAPOLEON III in France, whose deliberately expressed policy was that without a war every four years the country must lapse into a state of internal anarchy. In France in 1870, as in Russia in 1901, the Emperor, nominally autocratic, was too weak to enforce his own ideas, and permitted himself to be guided by the loudest-mouthed of his ministers. But there is felt to be another source of danger; in Austro-Hungary the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH, a constitutional monarch of a very different type, has by a wise knowledge of the needs of his people so guided the internal affairs of his somewhat incongruous Empire that Austro-Hungary has on more than one occasion been a guarantee of the peace of Europe. The Emperor has, however, reached the allotted period of human life, and unfortunately leaves no direct heir, and there is a fear that the elements of discord kept in abeyance through his personal influence for so many years may after his decease break out anew. These are real dangers which it behoves the statesmen of Europe to guard against, and there is no doubt that the knowledge gained of the enormous expense and waste of modern war has had a salutary influence in inducing caution. Seen in this light the recent display of Russia in the harbour of Varna has an unpleasant aspect, as an indication of the old habit of seeking to meddle in every trouble. The Balkan States, always discontented as the result of past misgovernment, were well content to settle down as useful members of the European family; and if the visit of the Grand Duke ALEXANDER MIKHAILOVITCH were merely intended to emphasise this desire, her neighbours could look on the affair not only with complacence but with pleasure. Unfortunately Russia has exhibited so frequently her insatiable avidity for turning every little difference to unworthy ends, that she cannot be surprised if she should now be looked upon with suspicion. The visit of the Grand Duke to Varna, natural enough in itself, would not have excited suspicions had it been made by any other Power. Russia has herself only to thank for the difference, and at a time when there is an evident desire on the part of the other Powers to avoid unnecessary occasions of misunderstanding, it was to say the least a misfortune on the part of Russia to make her private friendship the occasion for a display so capable of misconception. Russia is in fact playing a dangerous game; and the events of 1870 ought to be a warning that unprovoked aggression is apt to meet with condign punishment. Her policy with regard to China has not conduced to allay the suspicions of the world, and the very evident desire of an important section of her politicians to play in St. Petersburg the part of the reactionary party in Peking, and paralyse an Emperor who, if personally weak, yet has the best interests of the State at heart, is an unpleasant feature of the new development.

THE FATAL HOUSE-COLLAPSE IN COCHRANE STREET.

(*Daily Press*, 16th August.)

The terrible collapse of houses in Cochrane Street late on Wednesday night, one of the most heart-rending occurrences in the recent history of Hongkong, cannot be passed over in silence. The Government has before it the duty of making the strictest possible enquiry into the circumstances of the catastrophe, and, if any negligence can be proved, of bringing home to the responsible parties the guilt thereof. It will be remembered that on the 29th July the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD at a meeting of the Legislative Council gave notice of this question, among others:—"Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works lay upon the Council 'table a statement showing the number of buildings in the Colony which have fallen "down from 1st January, 1900, to 30th June, 1901, the names of the owners of said buildings, and the number of deaths caused by the tumbling down of said premises, and will the honourable member state the causes, so far as known, which have contributed to each accident, and, if they have resulted from defective construction, what precautions, if any, have been taken to prevent the erection of such buildings in the future?" Hongkong has won for itself an unenviable notoriety recently from the frequency of its building-collapses. In the default of such statistics as the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked for, we think we are right in saying that the large majority of accidents of this kind have occurred with newly-built or partially constructed dwellings, etc. The Cochrane Street houses are not in this category. They are old houses and have stood for many years. Yet their construction, as disclosed by Wednesday night's fall, is of a kind which should never be tolerated in Hongkong or anywhere else. We may make every allowance for the soddening effect of our climate on building-material and the ordinary wear and tear of age. Nevertheless it is evident that in the first instance the houses were not of a sufficiently strong build to have satisfied the requirements of a keen-eyed inspector of buildings. The twelve-inch outside walls were not of the solid character which their superficial appearance suggested: the inner walls were still worse. Signs of decay have shown themselves for some time on the outer walls of houses not only in Cochrane Street but in other streets in the same neighbourhood. The members of the general public have no training to guide them in detecting when a building becomes actually dangerous; but it may be asked, Does not the Government include experts in this line of civic work? The layman, no doubt, will incur the charge of being wise after the event only. It must be remembered, however, that he cannot be expected to anticipate dangers as the specialist should be able to do, that the specialist has this duty laid on him in place of the layman's individual business duties. When a great frequency of building collapses is observable the non-specialist has every right to ask why it is that the lives of his fellow-residents, possibly even of himself, are endangered when there is a department part of whose duties it is to prevent such danger. The Cochrane Street tragedy has involved, as far as our present knowledge goes, the lives of 22 people, the serious injury of 10, and the minor hurt of 18 others. Such an event calls for the most serious consideration of the authorities.

We have alluded to what appears to the untrained observer—though we must state

that professional architects appealed to on the question endorse the deductions from this observation—the insufficient construction of the fallen houses. "Flimsy" seems none too strong an epithet to apply to the structure as laid bare by Wednesday's collapse. But worse still remains to follow. There are at the present moment being erected in this Colony houses which in their method of building are almost exactly identical with those in Cochrane Street. Some indeed are worse. The walls are in many cases mere shams, the poorest description of rubble with casings of bricks. One or two buildings have been pointed out to us by competent judges as examples of the very worst type of "jerry-buildings" to be seen anywhere in the world. As a correspondent, whose letter appears elsewhere to-day, says, the buildings in this Colony of Victoria are a sorry monument to the memory of her whose name it bears and whose reign saw its establishment and development to its present pitch of progress. The local Government cannot let such a state of affairs continue. It is true that it is saddled largely with the sins and follies of its predecessors. But how can it escape the reproach of sin and folly itself, when it is permitting a repetition of exactly the same kind of offences against the lives and persons of its subjects and is overlooking daily the rising into existence of what must ultimately prove to be death-traps to those unfortunate people who have no alternative but to crowd into the latest jerry-buildings thrown open for human habitation? It is too late to save the lives of those who, but for private cupidity and Government negligence, might still be living with us. But it is not too late to insist on owners, contractors, and above all inspectors, doing their duty. It is not too late for the present Government to earn for itself an honourable name by casting aside the vicious and inhuman practices of its predecessors in office, which hitherto with fatal blindness it has allowed to continue until the scandal has grown too great even for an usually apathetic community.

SUBMARINE WARSHIPS.

(*Daily Press*, 12th August.)

The British Naval Manœuvres, which have just ended, are possibly the last in which the submarine will have no allotted share. As is well known, four of these boats, improved *Hollands*, are to be finished this autumn, and at once experimented with. The striking success achieved by submersible boats in the recent French Naval Evolutions is at once a serious warning and a valuable object lesson. REUTER's words were: "They approached the squadron unsuspected, passed the entire line, torpedoed the ironclads, and escaped unobserved and unscathed." No doubt the very best conditions prevailed—for the submarine. It is well-nigh inconceivable, had the conditions of actual combat been observed, that anything resembling such complete annihilation would have occurred: the deed, however, is exactly paralleled by the success of the destroyer in the manœuvres not long ago concluded in the Mediterranean by the two sections of Admiral Sir John Fisher's command. "Unsuspected and unobserved" cannot mean other than total submersion at an appreciable depth, and for a distance of some miles: and when this takes place, the speed, at no time great, is materially lessened. It also implies that all offensive movements were entirely dependent on the revelations of the periscope, that crab-like eye projecting from the sunken boat to the sea-surface. In a glass-like sea, this visual

apparatus, floating on the water, would accurately fix the relative positions of every object within a limited radius: but in lumpy, choppy seas, its circle of sight would continually vary, and be constantly cut off and interfered with. Like the whale, the submarine must come to the top occasionally, thus revealing its whereabouts. Once its presence is detected, or even divined, the periscope, which is a delicate piece of optical mechanism, would run great danger of being smashed or put out of gear, not merely from being actually struck by hurtling missiles, but by the stunning aerial concussions caused by flying shot and bursting shell. Immediately this happens, the submarine, below water, would be hopelessly crippled, as harmless as POLYPHEMUS blinded, and must perforce rise to the surface to take new bearings. The actual danger of three or four submarines in real, as opposed to mimic, warfare is, in the opinion of not a few naval experts, highly problematical, because the risks they themselves run are very many. The moral effect of such engines of destruction would be undoubtedly great. In a harbour or other confined space, their offensive value would be largely enhanced. Admiral DEWEY has stated that a couple of submarines on the Spanish side, in the fateful fight of Manila Bay, would have hampered him considerably. In the report, published by our Admiralty in August, 1899, giving the composition of the fleets of the seven great naval powers, France alone was indicated as constructing this type of boat, and she then had nine of them either finished or on the stocks. In a similar report, dated December, 1900, France appears with eighteen, and the United States with seven. We now know that Russia is going to construct vessels of this type. It will not be uninteresting to look at the subsequent progress of the submarine in the French navy, as revealed in the columns of *La Ligue Maritime Française*—the analogue of our own *Navy League Journal*—for March-April-May of this year. Three submarines, of different types, were being constructed, all three destined for experiment only. They were not to figure in the schedule of new constructions. Twenty others, of an approved and satisfactorily tested model, were to be undertaken almost immediately. This large addition would more than double the French list of this class of boat. At the time, they had fourteen, either in actual commission or in their yards, to wit, four that had completed their trials, the *Gymnote*, *Morse*, *Gustave-Zédé* and *Narval*; two, the *Français* and *Algérien*, almost completed; and eight put on the stocks by M. DE LANESSAN, of which four—*Farfadet*, *Gnome*, *Korrigan*, and *Lutin*—building at Rochefort, are improved *Morses*; while four others—*Sirène*, *Triton*, *Silure* and *Espadon*—laid down at Cherbourg, are *Narvals*. The construction of this tiny vessel is rapid; so that, in a few months at most, the French will be the proud and enviable possessors of a formidable flotilla of no less than thirty-seven submarines. It is instructive to note that in the second competition instituted by the *Ligue Maritime Française*, the first of the subjects proposed was: "The utilisation of flotillas of torpedo-boats and submarines for the defence of the colonies." Competitors had to assume, as the basis of their theses, a war with a great naval power—presumably Great Britain—and to examine the military requirements of the colonies which would be unable to resist the onset of an active enterprising foe. They had also to discuss such indispensable accessories as floating docks, workshops for repairs, munition-stores, etc. An anonymously

given prize of 500 francs was offered for the best essay. On the 1st of May, the limit fixed for the reception of these essays, eleven competitors had entered. This clearly shows that our Gallic neighbours are leaving no stone unturned in their eager, praiseworthy, patriotic endeavours to increase the efficiency and striking power of their fleet. The function of the submarine, in the rough and tumble of real naval warfare, is as yet theoretical. In the hands of a desperate, hard-pushed opponent, it might presumably wreak fearful havoc: on the contrary, it may prove a modified failure. As the preeminent naval power, it behoves us to be in the very forefront of experiment, and to gauge exactly the offensive worth of every type of vessel which our gallant first line of defence may be called on to meet.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

(*Daily Press*, 18th August.)

The risk of international complications is very much increased by the greater attention which is now apparently paid to public speeches, whether they be delivered before or after dinner. Speech-making, as far as we know, is not a habit which in itself has spread in recent years. Complimentary banquets and public ceremonials have always been attended by oratorical displays, and the ability or inclination for addressing a dinner-party or a crowd has marked numberless men in the past. Unfortunately or fortunately—as it may be held—the practice of recording such speeches has not prevailed until quite recent times. It is the outcome, indeed, of journalism, and to journalism and telegraphy together must be ascribed the apparent importance attained by the speech-maker. Even within the past few years the competition of the newspaper trade has led to the result that many speeches which might otherwise have been left to the local journals, with a bare record elsewhere of their occurrence, are now known almost all over the world, it may be said, within a very short time from their delivery. Thus the orator has widened his appeal and the after-dinner speaker must remember that his remarks will reach those who have not partaken of the same dinner with him and will look the more coldly on what he says.

The subject of the fictitious importance which is attached to utterances on convivial and ceremonial occasions is suggested by a discussion which has arisen over a remark made by General Sir ALFRED GASELEE at

a tiffin given in his honour by the branch of the China Association at Kobe. General GASELEE said that "we should never have effected the relief of the Peking Legations without the help of our allies, the Japanese"—a remark which seems harmless enough in itself, but which has called down on the speaker's head some irate comments from non-British residents in Japan. By "we" or "our," it is argued, General GASELEE must have meant the British, and therefore he was arrogating to Great Britain and Japan the whole credit of relieving the besieged Legations. It is of course, obvious that General GASELEE intended nothing of the kind, but the ambiguity of his expression gave his over-sensitive critics the text for their complaints. It is not long since Admiral Sir EDWARD S^T.
R. by his remarks on Britain's river and sea banquets of the Shanghai branch of the China Association caused no small stir yet our late Admiral said nothing which was not recognised as true long before he spoke. In Europe recently we have seen still more absurd exhibitions of the way in which

deep meanings can be extracted by the critics from utterances prompted merely by some special event. We have been reading in the home papers of the "great" motor-car race from Paris to Berlin. As the winner, a Frenchman, arrived at his destination, remarkable scenes occurred, French flags waved beside German, and bands played the "Marseillaise." Certain minor German celebrities then proceeded to improve the occasion by expatiating on the friendship between France and Germany and apparently got themselves taken seriously. At any rate, the newspapers have commenced to discuss the chances of a Franco-German *rapprochement* and the influence which such an event would have on the politics of Europe. This is, indeed, a curious result from a little gush over a motor-car victory! We do not lose sight of the fact that Count von WALDERSSE has also paid his tribute to the Great French Nation, or that his sovereign earlier still made one of his remarkable speeches over the closer union between France and Germany owing to their soldiers fighting side by side in China. But, had not M. FOURNIER won the motor-race and the Duke of RATIBOR been effusive over his victory, it is certain that we should never have had all this discussion about political changes. The German Emperor in his capacity of orator has been particularly the victim of the exaggerating critics. In fact so much has he suffered at their hands that his printed speeches are now all, it would appear, personally edited in the manner in which certain Hongkong speakers would have their speeches brought out. Really, in many ways, an extension of this system would be excellent. The speaker could then always address to his particular audience the remarks which he wished to make at the moment, while his words to the world would be such as he ought to have spoken or as it would have been expedient for him to have spoken. The only other way to avoid the complications which may arise out of individual utterances is for the public generally not to attach undue importance to remarks either after dinner or before, at motor-car races, out of railway-carriage windows, or elsewhere. This is the simpler solution of the difficulty. There is, however, no likelihood of its adoption. The spoken word, especially when translated into print, has a peculiar potency. He must be a painful speaker who cannot increase his apparent value in the eyes of the world when he stands up to speak.

THE NAVY LEAGUE AND THE ADMIRALTY.

(*Daily Press*, 14th August.)

The home papers which reached us by Monday's mail have much to say about the question at issue between the Admiralty and the Navy League in the matter of Britain's Mediterranean fleet. In reply, indirectly, to the League's manifesto, and to a direct question from Lord SPENCER, Lord SELBORNE on the 5th ult. made a long and important statement before the House of Lords, which attracted at once a great amount of attention both in England and abroad. The real gist of the Navy League's enquiry lay in the question, Is the British Mediterranean squadron strong enough to do its work in war? Lord SELBORNE's reply to this query was as follows: "If I am asked whether I am satisfied that the Mediterranean squadron at its peace strength is able to meet any possible combination which could be brought against it, that combination being at war strength, of course, I should not

be satisfied: though on its peace footing I am quite confident the Mediterranean squadron would inflict enormous damage on any force that attacked it. But why should it have to meet a combination on a war footing, being itself on a peace footing? I say with the fullest possible sense of my responsibility that the Mediterranean fleet on its war footing would be absolutely adequate to any task which so far as we can foresee can be assigned to it." Lord SELBORNE went on to scout the idea that the Mediterranean squadron should be kept permanently on a war footing, and continued: "I have never heard any responsible person yet make such a suggestion. The question is, What proportion of the war strength should be maintained in peace? . . . I associate myself with Earl SPENCER, deeply regretting the attempt made to cause a panic."

It is of course nothing new for the Navy League to have the word "panic" thrown in its teeth, and as we have previously said the accusation of being unduly alarmist is not altogether unjust. However, on this particular point as to the strength of our squadron in the Mediterranean, some remarks in the last issue to hand of the *Naval and Military Record* are worth quotation. Our service contemporary says: "The complaint that the so-called scare about the condition of the Mediterranean fleet is due to a Navy League and newspaper conspiracy is especially unfair, because everyone knows that the defects of the fleet, which form the basis of this agitation, are admitted to have been set forth by the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and by the Rear-Admiral second in command. Since there is no denial of this, the League and the newspapers have simply voiced the opinion of those best qualified to state the case, and have given the country the benefit of information which would otherwise have been kept from them." The *Record* deplores the fact that the weapons of agitation have to be used before officials can be induced to attend to affairs vital to the Empire's existence, but points out that time and again has it been found necessary for public-spirited men and the newspapers to take up arms against the Admiralty and the War Office. The *Record* at the same time, commenting on the fact that the Navy League has lately held up to admiration the German Navy League, with its 600,000 subscribers, and an income of £100,000 a year, asks: "Does the fact that Englishmen, quite as proud of their navy as the Germans are of theirs, hold aloof from our own Navy League stand for nothing? Is there not a suspicion that while the German League supplies solid, reliable information, our Navy League is too prone to ghost-stories? The Navy League is essentially a patriotic body, oppressed with good intentions. We are not ungrateful, however, to the Navy League. . . . Let us hope that the League will return to its charter, which was to instruct the youth of the country, especially in rural districts, as to what the navy has been, and is, and not to teach the Admiralty how to organise fleets and build ships." We should not have thought, nevertheless, that the Admiralty, even on the showing of its own apologists, was above learning from the League on certain points, and that Lord SELBORNE should have been at pains to make so careful a statement as he did in the House of Lords last month in itself a testimony to the truth of this. The comments of the *Continental Press* on the agitation in England, with regard to the fleet are interesting reading, and the

views taken are very diverse. The *Neueste Nachrichten* of Berlin, for instance, thinks that Lord SELBORNE's statement confirms the fact that Great Britain is no longer able to meet all the demands which hidden contingencies make upon her navy. The *Paris Temps*, on the other hand, sees in the agitation the hand of the Jingo, and says: "The truth is the people are "trying by every kind of means, legitimate or illegitimate, to start one of those "waves of public opinion which force the "hands of the Government and Parliament. "In short the idea is to obtain a new and "gigantic scheme of naval construction at "a time when a great war is absorbing and "exhausting the resources of the taxpayers." It is not unnatural that the foreign Press has found it hard to make out the exact state of affairs when they have to gather their facts from utterly conflicting statements, and when the home Press is much divided over the question. The *Times*, it may be remarked, lectures the Navy League with some severity and says that the one condition to the validity of Lord SELBORNE's defence is that the Admiralty is doing its duty and is fully alive to its vast and onerous responsibilities. If that condition is satisfied, and if the country is convinced that it is satisfied, the situation in the Mediterranean disappears from public view. It is not, the *Times* continues, at the bidding of a few "sea-gallopers," as Lord SPENCE called them, that the country will disestablish the Admiralty and install the Navy League in its place. The Navy League, however, has grown used to receiving as well as delivering lectures, and it is better than even unfounded agitations should occasionally be started than that the public should be allowed to become utterly apathetic. At the same time, the Navy League would strengthen its position vastly were it more careful to avoid the reproach of occasional hysteria. In its indictment of the state of the Mediterranean squadron it drew attention to some genuine defects. The general overstatement of the case only tended to obscure these points.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE LATE EMPRESS.

A special meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at Tuesday afternoon the 18th inst., to pass a resolution of condolence on the death of H.I.M. Empress Frederick, Princess Royal, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCE the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

Hon. Col. L. F. BROWN, R.E. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. McL. MESSER (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council having been read and approved.

His EXCELLENCE said—Honourable members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong, I have summoned you to-day that I may propose

to you as representing this community a resolution expressing our respectful sympathy with His Majesty the King and His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor on the death of the Dowager Empress Frederick of Germany, Princess Royal of England. When in those sad days in January the son and grandson met at Osborne to mingle their tears over the deathbed of our great Queen, we did not expect that within eight months the two august monarchs would once more find themselves involved in a common sorrow at the death of a beloved mother and sister—a bereavement that has placed two nations in mourning and has touched millions of German and British hearts with a common sentiment of sympathy. England has not forgotten the infinite charm of the Princess Royal with her far-reaching sympathies, and history will do justice to the great abilities and admirable qualities of the Dowager Empress Frederick and to the gentle fortitude with which Her Majesty bore in her later years afflictions and sufferings from which no human being, however exalted, is exempt. To us the melancholy duty presents itself of tendering to His Majesty the King and His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor our respectful condolences, and I beg to propose for your acceptance the following resolution:—"That the members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong desire humbly to express to His Majesty the King and His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor the sorrow with which they have received the intelligence of the death of the Dowager Empress Frederick of Germany, Princess Royal of England, and their deep sympathy with their Majesties in their bereavement."

The Hon. C. P. CHATER said—Your Excellency, I beg to second the resolution, and in doing so I am convinced that I represent the wishes of the community in general, including the Chinese. The loss sustained by His Majesty the King is a severe one, and that by the Emperor William still more so. The King has lost a dear sister, and the Emperor his beloved mother. The death of the Empress Frederick has been felt deeply in both Great Britain and Germany. As Princess Royal of England she made herself very popular, and in the Fatherland she very soon earned the esteem and affection of the people. In this colony, sir, we have a large German community, and we unite with them in condoling with the Sovereigns of the two countries in their great loss. This is the second time within the present year that the two nations have been drawn together by a calamity. Let us hope that the feeling of sympathy and friendship will go on, deepening and broadening, not by losses of this kind, but by a growing mutual regard, the result of better acquaintance. With these remarks, sir, I beg to second the resolution.

The resolution was accepted unanimously, and the Council adjourned sine die.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE QUEEN VICTORIA.

HONGKONG'S CONTRIBUTION.

His Excellency the Governor presided on the 14th inst. at a public meeting held at noon in the Council Chamber to consider the steps to be taken towards contributing to a memorial in London to the memory of the late Queen Victoria. The attendance included His Honour A. G. Wise (Acting Chief Justice), Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C. M. G. (Colonial Secretary), Hon. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Hon. F. H. May, C. M. G. (Captain Superintendent of Police), Commodore Powell, Sir T. Jackson, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. J. Thurburn, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Bishop of Victoria, Dr. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer), Mr. J. W. Norton Kyah (Registrar, Supreme Court), Mr. R. K. Leigh, Mr. A. H. Kennie, Mr. A. J. Raymond, Mr. H. A. Ritchie, Mr. C. Palmer, Mr. R. Shewan, Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. H. P. Tooker, Mr. F. von der Pfordten, Mr. Moorhead (Commissioner of Customs, Kowloon), Mr. T. Cocker (Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Kowloon), Mr. H. N. Mody, Mr. D. M. Moses, Mr. W. Poate, Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Mr. E. F. Skerfvelly, Mr. R. F. Johnston (Private Secretary to H.E. the

Governor), Mr. Fung Wa Chau, and other leading Chinese.

Addressing the meeting, His EXCELLENCE said—Gentlemen, I have asked you to meet me here to-day in consequence of the receipt of an invitation from the Secretary of State in the shape of a despatch—published in the Press and which no doubt you have all read—inviting the outlying portions of the Empire to contribute towards a monument to be erected in London to our late well-beloved Sovereign, Queen Victoria. I will call your attention to the last paragraph of the despatch, in which Mr. Chamberlain says:—"In making this request, I do not forget that many Colonies will desire to have their local memorial, but I am led to believe that they will also wish to be distinctly and separately represented in the commemorative monument which is intended to perpetuate in the heart of the Empire the glories of Her late Majesty's reign, and the loving esteem in which she was held throughout Her dominions." Now, in pursuance of that invitation, I have asked you to meet me here to-day for the purpose of initiating a movement in Hongkong in the shape of a contribution to this great central monument to our great dead. This invitation comes fitly when the first great burst of sorrow over the loss of our dear Queen has passed away, and men begin to think calmly and dispassionately how best to commemorate the memory of the great Queen under whose reign we have all been born and under whose wise rule we have seen England spread her wings of empire, until her flags float over every quarter of the globe, and her dominion embraces one quarter of the human race, who enjoy to a greater extent than any other people, the priceless blessings of individual liberty. Of all the products of that wonderful century, in which we have seen art, science, commerce, and every branch of human knowledge increase with extraordinary rapidity, the most beautiful has been the advent of a great monarch who at the same time has been a great and good woman—a monarch who has been acknowledged as a pattern for all time as a wise ruler of a free people—a woman whose blameless character will be cited through future ages as a pattern to be followed by every good woman who wishes to fulfil her womanly duties faithfully in every sphere of life. From the moment when, as a young and trembling girl, she turned from the kneeling nobles who announced her accession, and sought in instant prayer for strength to bear faithfully the burden of her stupendous responsibilities, until at length, full of years and the honours of a worldwide admiration and reverence, she sank to her peaceful rest, Queen Victoria never wavered in her devotion to her public duty and in her watchful care over the welfare of her people. When, in the early part of the last century, every throne in Europe rocked with the upheaval of the times, the waves of rebellion broke harmlessly against the throne of Queen Victoria, enshrined as it was in the hearts of her people; and the fierce light that beats upon every throne in her case only served to show more clearly those exquisite beauties of truth and purity and justice and goodness. Great queens there have been—Semiramis, Cleopatra, Isabella, Catherine—to whom adjectives can readily be applied, but down the ages, when the personal love of those who lived in her generation is removed and the historian of the future examines the facts of the present with calm and critical impartiality, the name of Victoria the Great will be accepted as the embodiment of all that was most noble among the noble, of all that was most worthy of admiration, of loyalty, of reverence, of love, among the mightiest monarchs of all time. (Applause.) To such a monarch it is right that such a monument should be raised in the heart of the Empire as will vie with any other monument erected to the greatest of the world's rulers, and it is right that every portion of this vast Empire should contribute towards its erection. In this common contribution I have no doubt whatever that the community of Hongkong will bear a fitting part. Never has Hongkong been appealed to in vain in the cause of charity, but in this case we are asked to mark our sense of the great and beautiful character of the grand Queen whose name has to us been a household word, and under whose will and just rule men

of all races have enjoyed the blessings of freedom, of justice, and of equality before the law. No feeble words of mine can commend to you as strongly as I could wish this proposal to contribute, but I leave the matter in your hands, in the full assurance that the contribution from Hongkong will be worthy of this important and prosperous Colony. (Applause.)

The next speaker was Sir THOMAS JACKSON, who said—Your Excellency and gentlemen, it has devolved upon me to move what I believe is the only resolution to be placed before the meeting. Before doing so, however, I should like to remind all present that the memory of our beloved Queen has particular claims upon Hongkong. Hongkong was the first acquisition to the Crown made after Queen Victoria came to the throne, and its city was called after herself—Victoria. There have been many more acquisitions during her reign, but I doubt if in any of all the vast acres—thousands of acres, thousands of square miles—there is one spot that prospered more during her reign than this little colony of Hongkong. Therefore I think Hongkong ought to be well to the front in giving its mite towards this costly monument to be raised in front of Buckingham Palace in London, and I am glad to say that there is only one opinion in this colony about the matter. I am sure that many of our friends other than British who have participated in the prosperity of this place will only be too glad to help us in the matter. I do not think I can well add anything to the eloquent words His Excellency has just given expression to, and I shall therefore confine my remarks to the moving of the resolution, which is as follows:—That in accordance with the suggestion of the Secretary of State contained in his despatch of the 10th June last, subscription be raised in Hongkong in aid of the Memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and that the following Committee be appointed to make arrangements for raising such subscription, viz:—His Honour A. G. Wise; Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Hon. Secretary); Sir Thomas Jackson and Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G. (Hon. Treasurers); Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. Dr Ho Kai, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. J. Thurburn, Messrs J. J. Francis, K. C. Fung Wa Chuen, Ho Fook, H. M. Metha, H. N. Mody, D. M. Moses, W. Poute, H. A. Ritchie, A. J. Raymond, R. Shewan, and A. G. Wood."

In seconding, the Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING said—Your Excellency and gentlemen, the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council was to have seconded this resolution, and I am sure you will all regret to hear that owing to indisposition Mr. Chater is unable to be present. I, therefore, in his absence, have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by Sir Thomas Jackson, and feel sure that it will appeal to all residents in this colony. (Applause.)

Speaking for the Chinese, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai said—Your Excellency, I have very much pleasure in supporting the resolution just proposed by Sir Thomas Jackson and seconded by Mr. Bell-Irving. I am sure, so far as I can speak, that the Chinese community of the colony will be only too happy to assist in the scheme, and will contribute very gladly whatever they can to the memory of a Sovereign whom they were accustomed to regard with admiration, with reverence, and with respect. I do not think there is any class of subjects who appreciate the goodness of our late beloved Sovereign Queen Victoria more than the Chinese in Hongkong, and I feel confident that when the subscription list goes forth among them they will prove their respect and admiration of our late beloved Sovereign by the amount of their contribution. I have very much pleasure in supporting the resolution. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCE the GOVERNOR then put the resolution to the meeting, and said—Gentlemen, you have all heard the resolution that has been proposed by Sir Thomas Jackson, seconded by the Honourable Mr. Bell-Irving, and supported by the Honourable Dr. Ho Kai. Those in favour of the resolution will kindly hold up their hands.

The resolution was carried, *unanimously*.

Before dismissing the meeting, His EXCELLENCE said—Gentlemen, I will only add one

remark, and it is that I hope the Committee will expedite their labours in this matter as much as possible, so that the contribution from Hongkong shall be sent home as quickly as may be. I think it is a great thing, whatever the Committee sends, to send it early, as the amount may to a certain extent enter into the calculations in connection with the arrangements for this great memorial. As you will have noted in reading the despatch from the Secretary of State, the contribution coming from each colony will be devoted to a considerable extent in securing for the great monument that is to be erected a separate representation of that colony as one of the component parts of the great memorial, and I have no doubt, whatever that that separate representation will be worthy of Hongkong. I only hope that whatever artists are called upon to carry out the grand idea of the central monument they will be equal to the occasion, and if they are, I am quite sure that the people of the Empire will perform their part in providing the necessary funds. (Applause.) That is all, gentlemen. Thank you very much for your attendance here to-day. On such a very bad day, this is a very good attendance indeed.

The meeting then dispersed.

MEETING OF THE TYPHOON RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE.

THE FUND CLOSED.

A meeting of the Typhoon Relief Fund Committee was held at noon on Thursday in the Council Chamber. His Excellency the Governor presiding. The members of the Committee present were the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Hon. Secretary), Sir Thomas Jackson (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Ho Fook, Mr. Loo Kuen Ting (Sub-Committee), and Mr. R. F. Johnston (Private Secretary to H. E. the Governor).

After reading the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee on 17th December last, the COLONIAL SECRETARY said he thought the best way would be to close the Fund. First of all, however, he wished to place before His Excellency a letter dated 12th July, 1901, which he had received from Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Ho Fook, and Mr. Loo Kuen Ting, the members of the Sub-Committee entrusted with the distribution of the subscriptions raised, which explained very fully what was done by the Sub-Committee, and which showed clearly the immense amount of labour they had to endure in order to carry out the distribution of the Fund. Under these circumstances the Sub-Committee deserved to be congratulated on the very efficient and effective manner in which they had discharged their onerous duties.

The letter referred to, which embodies the report of the Sub-Committee, is as follows:—

Hongkong, 12th July.

Sir. As members of the Sub-Committee appointed at a meeting of the Committee held on the 17th December last, we have the honour to report that we have altogether received 515 applications for relief, and that we have after investigation dealt with them in the best way we could. In some cases the sufferers received as much as 50 per cent. of their losses, whilst in others the amounts paid varied from 15 per cent. to 30 per cent. Out of the sum of \$26,129.00 subscribed by the Europeans and Chinese, we have paid away \$25,204.40, leaving a balance of \$924.60 to be dealt with.

Our best thanks are due to Messrs. Lau Yam Tsün, Li San Hin, Pun Tsz Wan, Un Lai Chun, Tam Tse Kong, Au In Tin, Chau Sin Ki, Chau Pik Tsün, Li Yau Tsün, Wong Yuk Shan, Cheung Sun Shan, Tseung Sze Kai, Ho Tai Sang, Tse Tean Tai, Ho Yam Nam, Wong Mang Hon, and others, for assisting us in collecting subscriptions from the Chinese community and also in investigating the claims.

Annexed will be found a detailed statement of disbursements.

We have the honour to be, sir,
Your trusted obedient servant,

FUNG WA CHUEN.

Ho Fook.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Hon. Secretary, Typhoon Relief Fund.
Sir THOMAS JACKSON read the following statement:—

TYPHOON FUND.

	\$ c.
Chinese subscriptions ...	21,363.0
Foreign " "	7,071.55
Interest allowed by Bank ...	15.66
	<hr/>
	828,450.21

CHEQUES DRAWN:—

	\$ c.
Per Fung Wa Chuen ...	2,784.00
" " " " ...	16,000.00
" " " " ...	6,000.00

	\$ c.
Balance available 4th March, 1901.	\$3,686.21

	\$ c.
Drawn 13th April, 1901, by Fung Wa Chuen ...	375.40

	\$ c.
Balance 15th August, 1901, including interest ...	\$3,327.67

Addressing the members of the Committee, His EXCELLENCE recalled to their minds the terrible typhoon of 9th November last year, and went on to say that from a launch he viewed the scene of desolation on the following morning, and thus gained an idea of its terrible severity. As all knew, hundreds of junks and sampans and many steam launches were sunk, and hundreds of lives lost. On returning to shore, His Excellency sent to the directors of the Tung Wa Hospital to ascertain if they could do something to meet the immediate distress, asking them to meet him in consultation. He found, however, he had been forestalled—that they had already sent out two launches, with every requisite for the assistance of the suffering, and with orders for the collection of the dead for burial. It was only fair, His Excellency said, that this action should be known and appreciated as it ought to be. Continuing, he said that at a public meeting held very soon afterwards—a meeting which was attended by all classes and every nationality in the colony—there was collected, as the Hon. Treasurer had shown, a sum of \$28,450.21. That money had been received practically between the 3rd and the 22nd of December, and the fact served to show the readiness with which the community of the Colony were always prepared to come forward and help when satisfied that real necessity existed. Everyone—Europeans, Chinese, and others—joined heart and soul in trying to relieve the distress. The distribution of the funds was handed over to a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Ho Fook, and Mr. Loo Kuen Ting, and when it was seen and realised how immense was the labour involved, and how great was the care expended in the distribution of the money, the thanks of the whole community would be tendered to the members of the Sub-Committee. They had gone carefully into 587 cases, and the amount granted ranged from \$2 up to \$250; for every sum disbursed, too, a voucher was given. Thanks were also due to the Hon. Treasurer, Sir Thomas Jackson, for consenting to take charge of the Fund, and for all he had done in the matter. At the present moment there was a balance remaining of \$3,327.67. The three gentlemen whose names had already been mentioned had written their report, and His Excellency thoroughly concurred with them in their statement that the best thanks were due to the large number of Chinese gentlemen who had lent their assistance in the distribution of the Fund. Reverting to the matter of the balance of \$3,327.67 that remained, His Excellency said every claim, so far as could be ascertained, had been met, and the question now was—what was to be done with the money. When the proposal was brought before the meeting as to the advisability of closing the Fund, it occurred to him that there were two cases where distress might possibly be relieved out of the Fund. One was the case of the fire which occurred on the 27th of last month at Victoria Street, when a large number of people were injured and several killed, and the other was the fire on board the *Aethusa* as she lay in the Docks, when ten men perished. Communications with the police showed that the Victoria Street fire was responsible for one deserving case and the *Aethusa* accident for several such cases. The police also reported that nothing had been done by the Dock Company to relieve the distress by the latter fatality. His Excellency, however, thought it

most improbable that an extremely wealthy corporation like the Dock Company would leave the families of the men to suffer—men who had been killed in the execution of their duty, and so he wrote to them to ascertain if the statement by the police was correct. He was happy to say that the answer received from the secretary of the Dock Company showed that the whole question would be brought before the directors at the next meeting of the Company on the 19th inst. It might fairly be assumed that the directors would do what was right in the matter. His Excellency then referred to the disastrous collapse of houses in Cochrane Street, and informed the meeting that he had just returned from visiting the scene of the accident and the Government Civil Hospital. When he left, ten dead bodies had been recovered and twenty-three injured people taken out of the fallen houses. The police and fire brigade were working as hard as they could, under circumstances of considerable danger, for the adjoining houses were in a most unsafe state. Unfortunately the exact number of casualties could not at present be ascertained, but it was feared that many more persons were buried in the debris. It was, however, possible that there might be recovered some who were yet alive. The injured people in hospital were in such a state that nothing could be learned from them, but it was certain that after such a calamity there would be found people who had lost all means of livelihood. Under these circumstances His Excellency suggested that the Sub-Committee, who had done so admirably already, might kindly undertake to retain the balance of the Typhoon Fund and render assistance to the sufferers in the three disasters he had mentioned or in any other case that might be brought to their notice. He would be grateful personally if this were done. He did not know if it was necessary to make a formal resolution on the point. They had come there to close the Fund, and it was only necessary to close it; and he asked those gentlemen of the Sub-Committee to undertake the further distribution in the interest of charity.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—Your Excellency, we are perfectly willing to undertake this further duty and to look into the whole matter. I have been requested by the Chinese to tender to your Excellency and to the European community their warmest thanks for the handsome donations given to the Fund. We are also indebted to Sir Thomas Jackson, the hon. treasurer, who has taken a great deal of trouble in connection with this work, and to all who have assisted in carrying it out.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON—Your Excellency, I think it is very desirable that the Typhoon Fund should be closed, and I beg to move accordingly. The remaining balance just mentioned should be handed over to the three gentlemen on the Sub-Committee, with a request that they distribute it amongst the necessitous cases which have just been discussed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—I am of opinion, gentlemen, that the course proposed is the best one, and we will adopt it. As the Fund is now definitely closed, I think our thanks are due to Mr. Stewart Lockhart, the hon. secretary, for the trouble he has taken in connection with the distribution of this Fund, and also to the Registrar-General, who rendered great assistance to the Chinese gentlemen in their various enquiries.

This was all the business.

The N.Y.K. liner *Tumba Maru*, Captain Wale, which arrived in Kowloon harbour on the 7th inst. from London and Antwerp, via ports, encountered a typhoon off Turnabout on the way up from Hongkong. The storm commenced off Turnabout and grew worse as the ship approached Tung Ying Island. That was on the 2nd inst. The storm lasted twenty-four hours. It grew in strength at 4 p.m. on the day mentioned, and raged with unabated force until 10 p.m. on the 3rd, when the wind went round to the S.E. blowing a heavy gale with high seas. This weather continued until the Gotos were sighted. Captain Wale said his ship behaved splendidly. He experienced a very strong set to the north-west, amounting to 30 miles in twenty-four hours.

DISASTROUS COLLAPSE OF HOUSES IN COCHRANE STREET.

On Wednesday night, the 14th inst., at about 10.45 p.m., the residents in the vicinity of Cochrane Street were startled by a deafening crash. The cause of this proved to be the collapse of houses No. 32 and 34, Cochrane Street, and the falling in of the front of No. 3. The two houses which collapsed fell forward, and in their fall damaged the buildings opposite, smashing the verandas, etc.

Immediately a crowd gathered and the scene following until the arrival of the police was indescribable. Besides the usual mix of the merely curious, there were numerous relatives of the residents or boarders—out of the houses having been an eating house—who were supposed to be buried beneath the ruins. The shrieks and groans of the unfortunate people beneath the debris mingled with the wails of the relatives standing outside and the shouts of the onlookers. Immediately after the collapse, flames burst from the ruined heap, adding to the terror and confusion.

The police and Fire Brigade were soon on the spot, and the first efforts were devoted to putting out the conflagration. The fire was soon got under control. Some of the beams and woodwork in falling were upheld on one side by a large stone support that had slightly separated itself from the adjoining house, forming an arch. This saved at least twenty-three lives besides two men who unaided forced their way through this arch while every one was engaged in subduing the fire.

The groans and shrieks emanating from the ruins were heart-rending, and among them one could distinguish the pitiful wail of a child, which later on was taken out, dead. It was said that there were seventy-five people occupying the two ill-starred houses at the time of the collapse. Many passers-by were also buried under the debris as the building fell outward.

The fire once under control, the men of the Fire Brigade worked their hardest to succour the victims, and succeeded in rescuing during the night twenty-three persons, among whom were several women and children, alive. Ten of the number were seriously hurt and conveyed to the hospital, whilst thirteen receiving only slight injuries, and being in fact more frightened than hurt, were taken to the Central Police Station and kept there till yesterday morning.

Special mention must be made of the voluntary assistance rendered by Privates Walker and Gaunt, of the 38th Co. S.D., R.A., who indeed did more than yeomen service in rescuing the suffering and were responsible for the saving of a number of lives. On reaching the scene of the disaster, they asked no questions, but pulled off their coats and worked heroically until daylight dawned.

Up till 9.30 a.m. yesterday thirteen dead had been recovered—a woman, one lad, and eleven men.

Shortly after ten o'clock the Fire Brigade men, composed of police constables and sergeants, renewed their labour in clearing away the debris, and recovered more of the victims. The labour was necessarily slow. However, their efforts were attended by the discovery of one body so buried as to be unrecognisable as to sex, and one young girl, her sex only discernible by her banded feet, and her age by her stature. Besides these two the corpses of two children were unearthed, burned and crushed beyond recognition.

About 10 a.m. the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, arrived to direct the operations of clearing away the debris and recovering the buried victims.

About 10.45 a.m. H.E. the Governor, accompanied by the Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works, came to view the scene, and remained the best part of an hour, in spite of the heavy rain that came down at intervals. Mr. H. P. Tooker, Acting Assistant Director of Public Works, was also on the spot directing the removal of the ruins. Inspectors Kemp, Baker and McNab were to be seen energetically helping in the work of rescue, which was carried on by relays of European, Indian and Chinese firemen and police.

As late as 10 a.m. yesterday morning people buried beneath the ruins could be plainly heard calling for help, but the great mass of fallen material made it impossible either to locate the cries immediately or to release the sufferers when located.

One twelve-year-old lad had a miraculous escape. He was buried under the before-mentioned arch formed by the woodwork, and when rescued on Wednesday night at about 12 o'clock he was found to be without a scratch, but, as might be expected, nearly paralysed with fright.

The sight of some of the wounded was most pitiable. One old man had his forehead staved in, his face a mass of blood; others seemed to be simply crushed, without apparent wounds, but unable to move a limb. One corpse removed had both legs burnt off, the right arm burnt to a cinder, the face all burnt, and a big hole in the back of his head. All of the bodies removed yesterday forenoon were more or less burnt.

This is the second accident of this kind in the same street. The first happened some seventeen years ago, when a partially-erected building at the corner, almost adjacent to the scene of the present disaster, collapsed. On that occasion, however, the building was unoccupied and the casualties were but trifling.

The numerous boxes containing clothing and personal belongings of the tenants of the collapsed houses, taken from the debris, seem to bear out the statement as to the great number of people who were in the buildings at the time of the disaster.

At 3.45 p.m. the searchers found a little girl underneath the debris quite unharmed. This made a total of forty-one dead, injured and unharmed recovered so far, besides the two men who forced their way from beneath the ruins unscathed.

The following is a detailed list of victims:—
Killed: 12 males, 2 females, 2 children and one charred corpse (sex unrecognisable), a total of 17.

Injured: 9 males and 1 female seriously, 11 males and 2 females slightly, total 23.

Escaped without hurt: 3 males and one female, total 4.

It being too dangerous to continue clearing away the remains of the houses for fear of the walls of the two adjoining houses giving way, coolies were engaged all yesterday afternoon in putting up braces between the two buildings.

Last night we learnt that Mr. H. P. Tooker, who remained at the scene of the disaster throughout the entire day assisting in the directing of the rescue operations, met with a rather nasty mishap between five and six o'clock in the afternoon, a falling brick striking him on the head and inflicting a severe scalp wound. But for the fact that Mr. Tooker was wearing his sun-hat at the moment, the accident might have had more serious consequences. The wound was dressed and Mr. Tooker taken to the Government Civil Hospital.

10 P.M.

The search for bodies buried underneath the debris was started again at 8 o'clock under the directions of Inspector Kemp and Sergeant Kerr and Smith. Two bodies were excavated, making a total of nineteen dead so far. At the time of going to press three more bodies were located and were being dug out.

Great difficulty is experienced by the police in obtaining coolies to help in excavating the victims of the collapse, one and all refusing, for some reason or other, to engage in the ghastly work. Only a few Chinese firemen were at work last night.—*Daily Press*, 16th August.

The *Bulletin Economique de l'Indo-China* gives some figures of the trade of Indo-China in 1900, which show that the commercial movement has attained 341,650,772f. during 1900, being an increase over the previous year of 89,410,107f. It is the most important increase that has taken place, largely surpassing all previous increases since 1891. During the last decade (1891-1900) the commercial movement of Indo-China has passed from 136,497,338f. to the amount mentioned above, which means an augmentation of 145.6 per cent. bearing mostly in the last four years. Imports have attained 115,465,877f., being an excess over 1899 of 70,500,000f.

THE INSANITARY CONDITION OF HONGKONG.

II.

THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

The explanation of the Government to the public Petition is contained in a Memorandum signed by the joint authors, the Hon'ble J. H. Stewart Lockhart, W. Chatham and F. H. May. Although he comes last, Mr. May is not the least of these three brethren. In fact, it is generally claimed that Mr. May is the sole author of the Memorandum. Mr. Chatham is responsible for the Enclosure A on "Measures to give effect to Mr. Chadwick's recommendations of 1882—Works," and Mr. May is answerable for the Enclosure B on "Measures to give effect to Mr. Chadwick's recommendations of 1882—Legislation." The Hon. the Colonial Secretary was apparently editor-in-chief and revised the MSS. of the two contributors, and toned down their adjectives, &c. Without destroying their identity, in the interests of truth he might well have used the blue pencil a little more.

Practically the line of defence of the Government has been to show that Mr. Chadwick's recommendations of 1882 have been carried out almost in their entirety. The Government is painfully aware that the action of the Petitioners in praying for the appointment of a Commission, to be accompanied by an Expert, is a scathing implication that either the last Expert's recommendations have been ignored or have not been fully carried out, although the Government has had nineteen years at its disposal. In fact the Petitioners quote numerous instances to show they have not been carried out, and that the Government has ignored instead of anticipating and overtaking the sanitary needs of the colony. It is the statement of three Officials against that of the Petitioners, whose strength lies in the fact that their accuracy is officially confirmed by quotations from departmental reports. It is therefore possible that if Mr. Chamberlain is scripturally minded—though our Continental friends inform us he is not—he will apply to our Government the parable of the unjust stewards. It is quite conceivable that he may be reluctant to sanction the expense of sending out a Commission with another Expert to see what the Government has done for this colony during the last nineteen years and how it has carried out Mr. Chadwick's recommendations. He might justly say "Take two more decades, thou good and faithful servants, and—think over them."

It is, however, unfortunate that such a well deserved rebuke may not be administered, as the colony cannot wait for the Official fulfilment of obligations. If the colony was solely to depend on the efforts of its local Officials to put it into that state of modern sanitation its condition demands—judging from the pace of past improvements—the now prosperous island would become depopulated and sink into obscurity, giving place to the new and powerful rivals springing up around it. Hongkong would go the way of ancient Rome, though allowing for the glamour surrounding departed greatness, we must admit that Roman municipal administration as exemplified in its public baths, roads, cloaca, etc., was certainly in advance of that attained by our local Bumbles. As the Petitioners point out:—

4.—The permanent prosperity of Hongkong, in fact its very existence, depends upon a wise and a just administrative Government, which will ensure the protection and maintain the freedom of its inhabitants. The local Government must secure to an intending colonist a reasonable immunity from preventable disease, and convince and satisfy the existing inhabitants of the colony, both British and Chinese, on whom its future welfare depends, and who have invested large sums of money in assisting that welfare, that it is doing its utmost to maintain the public health of the colony, by providing and maintaining an adequate and suitable system of Public Sanitation and Hygiene, which the revenue is well able to afford. The Imperial Government likewise requires that an adequate and thorough system of sanitation be maintained on account of the health of the troops, naval and military, and the many officers attached to these Services and the Civil Service. The local Government must

see that nothing is left undone which can be done, to remedy any defects likely to endanger the public health of the community.

It is well the Government should recognise this. It is surely within its sphere of operation.

For convenience and to save space, I intend to deal with the remarks of the joint authors together when they allude to the same subject. The Memoranda are opened by Mr. May. Now there are two types of Colonial officers—the candid and the sugar-candied, and in Mr. May's case, assuming that he originally came within the latter category, "his saccharine attributes have evidently become atrophied by negligent culture." He is usually so very candid that he has frequently been known to allow his feelings to carry away his better judgment. Mr. May is a young man, he has the strength and enthusiasm of youth, and is an able officer. He is apt, however, in his youthful enthusiasm and pride of office to commit himself to statements which mature reflection and the return to his normal state of official dignity would hesitate to confirm. Consequently, he has been known to say many extravagant things, one among others being that "if he were Governor he would suppress every newspaper in the colony." The newspapers will no doubt readily believe him and sympathise with him in his aspirations. It is over these self-imposed tasks that Mr. May usually stumbles and the Memoranda before us are cases in point.

The Petition to Mr. Chamberlain, it will be remembered, was signed by more than one thousand residents. Among these were all the local medical men and all the leading civil engineers, whom most people will admit are thoroughly conversant with the technical questions touched upon by the Petitioners. If these failed to understand the question of local sanitation—most of them have been working for years to improve it and to bring a stubborn Government to a sense of its shortcomings, but with little success—on whom are we then to rely? The appended signatures of nearly all the lawyers in the colony should convince Mr. Chamberlain as to the accuracy of the statements in the Petition, for what lawyer signs a document without reading it, or supports publicly a Petition made up of reckless and inaccurate details? Lawyers are never reckless—except in their charges. The Petition was also signed by the heads of all the leading commercial firms in the colony—do these usually sign documents which they have not read or cannot endorse? Finally come the signatures of their Rt. Reverences the two Bishops, who, as men of religion and understanding, would scorn to give episcopal sanction to a document unless convinced of its entire truthfulness!

To all these men of local high standing, great ability and integrity, to this overwhelming testimony of those whose united efforts have brought the colony to the prosperous and important position it occupies to-day, Mr. May calmly states that they signed a document teeming with misstatements and exaggerations. The Petitioners, he alleges, did not know what they were writing about and the signatories knew even less what they were signing. He endeavours to prove this by the Memorandum which he has had the audacity to send in to Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. May even induced H.E. the Governor to write that he believed the majority of the signatories signed the document without reading it—on the principle of Josiah Jones his mark X—which is a polite tribute from H.E. to the understanding and integrity of the Petitioners and the seal of infallibility of Mr. May's judgment. Who then is Mr. May, who can lead a Governor and defy a community?

The Hon'ble F. H. May is a man of many parts; he has the scrupulous instincts of a political agent; he is equally at his ease as Chief of Police, Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent of the Gaol, Vice-President of the Sanitary Board (a body he has just excommunicated) and Dictator-in-Chief to the other Officials in the colony. He is a colonial Crichton, and supports each position with characteristic ability, admirable tact, and marvellous energy. He has been known to commit errors of judgment, but mistakes never; his subordinates may do so, otherwise they are unheard of outside their own department. His innumer-

able attributes permit him to approach any special subject with ease and pose as an authority. He is a wonderful man, and one day will undoubtedly be promoted to the well-merited post of Governor of some colony. There will be no room for anyone else, but that is a detail—he will be qualified for every post.

The wonder is that possessing an officer of such great capacity, who is able to persuade any Governor that black is white, anything approaching a grievance is known in the colony. Everything should be perfect (it is—on paper) with which Mr. May comes into contact. Take his special department for instance—whosoever heard of a grievance in the Police Force? As a force it cannot control the impudent illegality of rickshas and chair coolies, encouraged by the guilds, but then that is perhaps a duty outside the functions of the Police, which is left to be overcome by time and the gradual submission of the coolies to benignant Western civilising influences.

Admitting this, there is therefore some reason in his literary "tub-thumping" in rebuking the signatories and informing them they are under an entire misapprehension—that the sanitary condition of Hongkong is perfect; as the Government has spent millions of dollars on it. He is thus entitled to chide the Petitioners for their wickedness in drafting such a document since a paternal government, which he represents, is ever ready to carry out any desired improvement which, after very mature reflection, it may consider reasonable. Throughout the Memoranda the Official triumvirate endeavour to show, very cleverly it may be admitted, that not only has the Government done everything necessary in the interests of local sanitation, but they claim for the Government the initiation of these sanitary reforms. Could anything possibly be more audacious and more untrue? They even go further, and state that if any sanitary measures were not carried out, it was owing entirely to Unofficial opposition. The Unofficial Members of Council can, of course, answer for themselves; and no doubt will in Council, and as for the community it would be no exaggeration to say that no sanitary measure has ever been introduced into this colony that was not the outcome of public agitation.

It is to be regretted that I have not sufficient space at my disposal to quote from the newspaper files of the last twenty years the numerous instances of Official opposition to public demands for sanitary improvements. Read the reports of the meetings of the Sanitary Board for the last few years and realise the extent of Official opposition to many measures which the trio now trumpet forth as their own.

To show the extent of the Government opposition to a measure which Mr. May now triumphantly claims as its own, namely, the Taipingshan Resumption, we will quote Mr. May's own words at a Sanitary Board meeting in July, 1894, when he temporarily forgot he was a Government official; but his strictures are of none the less value:—

The CAPTAIN-SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE: I would only add to the remarks Mr. Francis has made—I have not heard them in their entirety—that as I indicated in my minute, I would in justice to this Board say that it is not fair for the Government to try to throw their responsibility upon this Board. The Government is a continuous system, and you cannot divide the Government up by the periods of tenure of office of successive Governors, and in my humble opinion, although I am a Government official, and perhaps I should not say so, it is the duty of a Governor on his taking up office to make himself acquainted with the state of the colony and the history of every question likely to crop up, and more especially with the history of the Statute Book; and I agree with Mr. Francis that if the Government had borne in mind the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance, they possibly would not have fallen into what I regard as an error of judgment in trying to throw responsibility for the insanitary condition of certain houses upon this Board. Anybody who has lived in the colony for the last five years knows the history of the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance, and everybody knows that if the Governor's predecessor had not gone away, that Ordinance would have been put into practical operation, and probab'y Taipingshan would be now a Model Settlement.

Is it wise, therefore, to take Mr. May seriously now? What proof after all have we that he is now in earnest?

Turning to the blue-book let us consider after Mr. May's opening, Mr. Chatham's Memorandum. Our Acting Director of Public Works endeavours to show, very half-heartedly it is true, that his department has practically accomplished everything Mr. Chadwick recommended it to do. Since then, I suppose, it has slumbered on its laurels. It has built waterworks, drains and markets, and no one will deny that the Public Works Department has accomplished much since Mr. Chadwick first aroused it. The money has been forthcoming and most people are prepared to carry out duties when the wherewithal is provided. The faults the community find with the P.W.D. are that it has not done enough for the money it has spent, and it has not always done the work in the way it should have been done, and it has also left undone many things which it ought to have done. Mr. Chatham writes exultingly about his waterworks—on the island; he is strangely silent about Kowloon. He emphasises the fact that over two millions have been spent on waterworks since 1883. Well, most people will fail to see what the figures have to do with it, unless he wishes to be congratulated on economy, which is unlikely. The community provided the money, and have the right to expect the service; failing that they would have provided waterworks themselves to their own profit, as at Shanghai. Turn to Kowloon, and let Mr. Chatham ask himself if he can conscientiously rejoice over the wretchedly inadequate and dangerous system there. Furthermore, will Mr. Chatham be prepared to state to the Expert that the system in Hongkong is now fully sufficient and there is no danger of a water famine? Why, we have not got half enough water to keep this colony in an efficient sanitary condition.

Then Mr. Chatham tells us about drainage. Now in these matters of Public Works, Mr. Chatham, unlike his two *confrères*, understands what he is discussing. He is an engineer, and an able all-round man, whose opinion is much respected by his local unofficial professionals. He does not attempt to discuss the Police, nor tell the Attorney-General that he is mistaken in his law; he does not even reprove the Medical Officer of Health on plague reports, nor show the Colonial Treasurer how to add up figures. He "sticks to his last," and the only regret the community will have is that he allowed himself in a moment of weakness to figure as a military *Sincho Panza* to his colleague, the *Colonel* of Police. The misfortune of the P.W.D. is that the Government has never allowed it to have half enough men to do the work demanded from it.

In referring to the drainage of the colony, Mr. Chatham had to consider that, as acting head of the P.W.D., he held a brief for the Government. He has therefore sought to prove that the present system is as Mr. Chadwick recommended it should be, throwing the onus of any shortcomings on the Expert; and further that the Government has done its utmost to make the drainage as perfect as possible. Mr. Chatham is an interested witness, and his testimony must suffer on that account. Against his statement we have the signatures of eleven local civil engineers, men of high ability and of much local experience, who have endorsed the Petition which says that Mr. Chadwick's recommendations have not been fully carried out; that his designs have been tampered with; that the Government has not done everything it should have done, and also that the present system is unsuitable (as was found to be the case in Bombay) to the place and the community.

It is twelve years since Mr. Chadwick was last here, which is ample time to play ducks and drakes with his recommendations, and although Mr. Chatham discourses fluently to show that Mr. Chadwick approved of Mr. Cooper's methods, he does not answer the charge of the Petitioners, namely that "the separate system" introduced by Mr. Cooper "is without the safeguards Mr. Chadwick recommended, viz., abundant water supply, flushing tanks at the head of each drainage valley, pumping stations at each end of the city to relieve the intercepting main drain and throw the sewage into the sea well clear of the city." Mr. R. K. Leigh, in his able report of 1888, said "the proposed scheme of drainage, as described in the report under consideration

(Mr. Cooper's) is diametrically opposed to that of Mr. Chadwick."

Concerning the general belief that the system was not suited to the Chinese population, I may quote the following from a Report of the House Connections Committee of the Bombay Corporation, which so well applies to Hongkong:—

Beginning with the incorrigible habits of the people with regard to waste matter, they saw that any system of house connections, to work with reasonable efficiency, must be devised and based on these habits. They found that down-take pipes large enough to carry off all the water used in houses were constantly choked with solid matter, and that syphons intended to protect the people from foul gases were simply receptacles for sand, ashes, rags, &c., blocking the pipe and causing the water to run down the walls and foul them. They found, in fact, that nearly every English device used to protect the people from foul gases was here converted into a means of producing them.

Mr. May, in his Memorandum, dealing with the same subject, characterises the above statement about there being "no flushing arrangements" as untrue. His reason for this is that Mr. Cooper in 1891 reported "that the sewerage works in the High Level District had been completed with manholes, ventilators and flushing arrangements." The "flushing arrangements" Mr. May alludes to are somewhat different to those referred to by the Petitioners. These wonderful flushing arrangements of Mr. Cooper's (which on sanitary grounds are condemned) seldom act, because there is not usually sufficient water at the Peak to fill them—as a rule half a dozen coolies are requisitioned to pour water down the drains. Mr. R. K. Leigh, who in 1889 reported on the Peak Drainage, referred to this danger. At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on 3rd May, 1901, two proposals were made by the Medical Officer of Health to meet the want of flushing the sewers and drains. This does not testify much to the value of the present wonderful automatic flushers.

Therefore, if, as Mr. May alleges, there has been any prevaricating it has been on his side, not on that of the Petitioners. As regards the Peak Drainage, typhoid fever, previously unknown at the Peak, has followed the introduction of the separate system there. Any of the medical signatories are prepared to state that the present condition of these drains is eminently calculated to promote the growth and distribution of the typhoid germs should they accidentally find entrance thereto. This equally applies elsewhere. Loud complaints of the stenches were made in 1882, but the stinking storm-water drains which it was claimed would prove a remedy have considerably increased the nuisance.

Mr. May on the subject of drains makes an admission. He says:—

The statement contained in the same paragraph that the contents of the storm-water drains are nearly as foul as those of the sewers is true, and the only remedy appears to be a more efficient method of removal of night-soil and the more effective control of the hawking of vegetables, sugar-cane and fruit in the streets.

Mr. May, with his characteristic impetuosity, forgets one important point, and even Mr. Chatham is curiously reticent about it, namely that the Mr. Cooper of unenviable renown claimed that his drains were *self-cleansing*. To expect drains to be self-cleansing on some of the gradients made would be verging on the miraculous, and if they were, as he alleged, then why do they need the frequent attempts at cleansing with chains?

The so-called new "self-flushing" drain extending from the nullah at the north-east corner of the garden of the Officers' Quarters, Murray Barracks, is a case in point. This drain runs along Queen's Road East, Arsenal Street and Praya East, to Ship Street, a distance of about 5,400 feet. It is a 12inch diameter pipe-drain, taking all the sewage of a very largely populated district, and has an inclination of only 1 in 389!! How the designer expects any liquid of any kind, let alone thick and practically undiluted sewage, to flow at all on a flat "gradient" no one except himself is able to realise. Few sewers at home are laid at a flatter gradient than 1 in 100, excepting large main sewers which convey a good volume of liquid sewage.

In dismissing the drainage question, may I ask Mr. Chatham whether he considers the four large pipes discharging sewage on to the foreshore, a few yards from the road, at Des Voeux Road, Kowloon, giving rise to an abominable and dangerous nuisance on what should be the best marine promenade there is, a sample of that superb system of drainage he professes to be so proud of?

Mr. Chatham concludes: "From 1883 to 1888 a sum of \$485,000 was expended under the heading of "Sanitary Works." He omits to mention that this expense was chiefly incurred through Mr. Price laying down brick drains and pulling them up again in 1888 for pipe drains. The total expenditure by the Government under the heading of Drainage Sewerage Work from 1889 to 1900 has been \$542,869. This is an average of \$49,351 a year—does Mr. Chatham think this excessive for a colony such as ours with its continual extensions of residential quarters?

Mr. Chatham next alludes to Markets, and he refers to the Central Market as a monument to official enterprise and energy. It is a fine building—though a few windows have been forgotten—and they have not only one but several equal to it both in Singapore and Shanghai. The Central Market here is most remunerative, and we need not one only but half-a-dozen in place of the few miserable little squalid dens in other parts of the colony. Mr. Chatham omits to refer to the amount of pressure it took to move the Government to provide suitable markets adapted to the needs of this rapidly increasing community.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon in his report for 1889 gives some striking facts, especially in the matter of dates and incomes. He said:—

In previous report, I have from time to time pointed out the urgent necessity of providing increased market accommodation, but as yet without any result. I therefore proceed to give a few figures which I think should go far to further substantiate my reason for so doing.

In 1858, the Central, Western, Eastern, Taipingshan, Wan-chai, and Sokonpo Markets were erected. To these were added the markets of Saingyipoon in 1861, and of Shektongau in 1875—being an increased accommodation of 98 stalls, the re-building of the Central Market in 1895 giving a further increase of 41 stalls, or a total of 139 more than in 1859. But during this period—from 1859 to 1899 the Eastern and Taipingshan Markets of 68 and 74 stalls respectively, were demolished, thus showing a loss of 3 stalls to the total market accommodation of the City of Victoria during the last forty years: although in that time the population has increased from 49,730 in 1859, to 168,260 in 1899, and the revenue from markets from \$26,677.50 to \$80,901.38.

I believe the cost of erecting the Western Market in the first instance did not exceed \$9,437.12, yet during last year the revenue derived from its stall rents amounted to no less than \$23,165.64.

Mr. Chatham refers to the Slaughter-House "unsurpassed anywhere." It took the Government exactly thirteen years to build this, and then only after Mr. Chadwick had again insisted on it. The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon in his Report for 1889 pointed out:—

Shaukiwan and Aberdeen.—No proper slaughterhouse has yet been provided for either of those two places, although Section 8 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 reads that "a sufficient number of fit and proper slaughter-houses to meet the requirements of the colony shall be provided by the Government." I first drew the attention of the Board to this matter as far back as 1890 in my Annual Report.

This he repeated in his Report for 1890, and further pointed out in connection with the "un-surpassed anywhere" slaughter-house that—

Since the erection of these buildings six years ago at a total cost of \$110,310.00—including preparation of site, terracing, building of retaining walls, landing wharf, and inspectors' quarters—they have returned in fees, after paying all working expenses, the handsome net sum of \$233,647.00. The two additional Inspectors asked for were, however, not granted.

"The expenditure under this heading," for markets and slaughter-houses, says Mr. Chatham, "from 1883 to 1900 has been \$583,137," which is equal to \$34,302.30 a year, to a population of about 300,000 not including the numerous ships of war and merchant vessels which continually use the market. What does

Mr. Chatham think of this in comparison with the income of \$233,647, for the slaughter-house alone, which, of course, should be devoted to maintenance, extension, improvements and new slaughter-houses!

In neglecting to build more markets and slaughter-houses, which this officer points out are required, the Government is not only ignoring most profitable sources of revenue, but their want of action is tending to increase the cost of food.

The Acting Director of Public Works in answering the complaint of the Petitioners as to the Government neglect in providing latrines naively remarks that "the provision of these conveniences has not been entirely neglected" [the italics are mine] and he gives certain information which shows that the Government has actually provided nine latrines for a population of 280,000, most of whom are Chinese.

Mr. May also provides a page on latrines, the only portion of which need be referred to is his statement concerning the Leighton Hill latrine. To give an idea of what Mr. May considers to be a truthful statement, I append the following:

M.O.H.

The need for additional public latrines and urinals is becoming more and more urgent every year, and yet no addition has been made during 1899 to the number of such conveniences, either in the city or elsewhere in the colony. One small public latrine has, it is true, been erected at the south end of Ship Street, Wanchai, but merely to replace a private latrine a few yards distant and which was to have been demolished at the end of the year. The old wooden latrine with two seats on Leighton's Hill Road has also been replaced by an iron structure with six seats but there are still only 29 latrines throughout the entire city, with but 689 seats for a Chinese male population of almost 120,000. Moreover, only 12 of these latrines have been erected by the Government, the remainder being privately owned, and therefore not free. (1899 Report.)

MR. MAY.

In 1897 the Board made formal application that sites for 13 latrines be reserved in the resumed area of Taiping-shan in accordance with the approved plan for the laying out of the area.

These sites are still reserved, but owing to the fact that very little of the resumed area has been taken up for building purposes only one of the latrines has been built.

The Board asked at the same time for a latrine to be erected at Leighton Hill. It was erected in 1899. They also asked for a latrine near Ship Street and for one at Tai-kok-tsui. The former was built (after the necessary formalities had been complied with) in 1899 and the latter, which took the form of a mud-shed structure, pending the further development of the village, in 1898.

In 1898 the Board recommended the erection of 2 latrines. Provision was made in the Estimates for 1899 for two latrines and two were erected during the latter year as shown above.

It will be noted that Mr. May forgets to mention that the latrines in his third paragraph replaced others. This is one of numerous instances of the suppression of the truth in the Memorandum.

In the Government's analysis of the Report prepared for Mr. Osborne and presented at the last Sanitary Board meeting it is consoling to note that "\$12,000 for additional latrines is to be inserted in the Estimates for '902." Why this sudden burst of unnecessary (!) extravagance?

In the matter of Roads Mr. Chatham discreetly says little and Mr. May, *mirabile dictu*, is altogether silent. What Mr. Chatham says, is, however, gratifying, for it is evidence after all that the question of roads, not their condition, does come with the scope of official responsibility. Now can the Acting Director of Public Works for a moment put aside his official mask and conscientiously state—before a Justice of the Peace—(1) whether there is a road on the lower levels worthy of the name? (2) That if there be is it kept in a condition in any way equal to a road at Singapore, Macao and even Shanghai? (3) That although the traffic on the lower levels is almost entirely limited to jinrickshas and bicycles, why is it the main roads are in an abominable condition, and in wet weather several are absolutely dangerous? Seeing that for years past the P.W.D. has never been able to keep in fair condition the very few roads it possesses, the

Government might reasonably include in its 1902 estimates the cost of an engineering delegation to Singapore and Macao to learn how roads are really made and kept. The doctors, dentists, and rickisha-repairers would probably protest, but their opposition could be overcome with firmness.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Sanitary Works, the Acting Director of Public Works writes:—

In addition to the works already described, several others of minor importance have been carried out. They include 10 public laundries, 20 tanks for washermen to carry on their operations in, under sanitary conditions, a Vaccine Institute, and a Disinfecting Station, the combined cost of which amounts to \$33,081.

Any one acquainted with the villages of Tai-kok-tsui, Mong-kok-tsui and Fun Tsun Heung as they existed six or seven years ago, would find difficulty in recognising them again to-day. It may safely be asserted that a revolution has been wrought in these and other villages.

Mr. Chatham omits to mention that the small row of cottages erected as Public Laundries came into existence just nineteen years after Mr. Chadwick's recommendations thereon; and further that the Chinese reasonably declined to use them owing to want of water which was constantly failing, a necessity for which the Government absent-mindedly made no regular provision for. Then the Government draws attention to the condition of the villages. Surely we were not supposed to erect insanitary villages; the Government apparently congratulates itself because it did not!

The Vaccine Institute is generally not working, and during epidemics of small-pox the Saigon serum was used by medical men. Was not the disinfecting station also needed?

Mr. May seems to have had a hand in the next paragraph, or perhaps the Editor-in-chief thought it time to assert himself. As this will be dealt with elsewhere it need only be mentioned that the "elastic revenue" which prohibited "back alleys and the formation of a Fund to carry out large Sanitary Schemes" did not prevent the Government from increasing the military contributions or their own salaries. The present "care to provide public lances" is evidence that the Government on this, as on other matters, is waking up to its past neglect.

Mr. Chatham alludes in glowing terms to the Taipingshan Resumption, and apparently claims this enterprise on behalf of the Government. I refer him to the speech of the Supt. of Police of 1891 given previously. If evidence could be taken in this matter there is little that Government could congratulate itself over. The place was formerly a hotbed of disease, paying a hundred per cent, and was winked at by the Government for years, and was only resumed by the Government through fear of the ultimate consequences and the emphatic pressure of public opinion. The Public alone are to be thanked for this improvement, not the Government, and a reference to the newspaper files of that period will abundantly convince one of this.

Mr. Chatham's concluding statement that the Government has done everything possible in the way of the sanitary improvement of the colony is not in accordance with the Official statements quoted in the Petition and the repeated pleadings of the Medical Officer of Health, supported by the unanimous opinion of the medical men of the colony. It may convince Mr. Chamberlain, but it will not satisfy this community, who in spite of the flexibility of the Government's conscience and its apathetic indifference will get what they require. Ample evidence has recently been afforded of the Government's alarm on this score.

In concluding his part of the book, Mr. Chatham, who unblushingly appends his signature, says:—

In conclusion it will be well to summarise the expenditure on the works mentioned during the past 18 years:

Waterworks	... \$2,130,983
Drainage and Sewerage Works	... 1,027,462
Markets, &c.	... 583,137
Public Latrines	... 42,479
Miscellaneous Minor Works	... 38,081
Taipingshan Resumption and Improvements	... 925,973
Total	... \$4,743,522

These figures are no doubt very impressive, they represent an enormous expenditure, much waste, and a vast amount of public dissatisfaction. Deleting the items Waterworks and Taipingshan Resumption, the real expenditure on Sanitation during the past 18 years is \$1,691,566; set against it the income, and compare it with even the past and present Sanitary requirements of the colony, together with the revenue of the Government for that period. It means an annual expenditure on Sanitary works for the 18 years of \$92,864, and the surplus revenue for the year 1901 is estimated at a million!

Proceeding with the Memorandum we find that reference is made to "Enclosure No. 2," drawn up by Mr. May. Unfortunately there is not sufficient space at my disposal to deal with the whole of the Memoranda, and I must therefore limit myself to a few of the flagrant misstatements made by the three Officials. I believe Mr. Osborne is now engaged on a Memorandum which he will send in to H.E. the Governor, refuting the Official statements, although Mr. Chatham declined to give Mr. Osborne the information he asked for essential for his purpose.

With regard to Mr. May's "Enclosure No. 2," it is only necessary to deal with one portion, namely The Public Health Ordinance of 1887. This is practically the backbone of Mr. May's case, and he has very ingeniously juggled with the facts to suit his side of the question. It is impossible to quote all the matter bearing on this, for it would fill pages. Several assertions have been made to the opposition provided by the *Daily Press*, which have been already dealt with in the leading columns of this paper. Practically, Mr. May endeavours to make out that the Public were strenuous opponents of this Ordinance.

Mr. May quotes portions of a Memorandum by Dr. Ho Kai protesting against the measure. Dr. Ho Kai was, of course, simply the exponent of Chinese ideas, and the fact that the Sanitary Board was unanimously against him should have been sufficient for the Government. Mr. May is correct when he says the Unofficial Members of Council, with one exception, were opposed to the measure, but they were as unrepresentative of the community then as they are now. Those Unofficial Members represented the landlords, not the public.

Now, on the 21st January, 1887, the Hon. A. P. MacEwen asked the following question in the Legislative Council:—

When the new ordinance for amending the laws relating to public health in the colony of Hongkong will come before the Council?

In doing so, he said—

Sir, You are aware that the time and attention of the Sanitary Board for months past have been taken up in preparing a bill entitled "The Public Health Ordinance." I think it is desirable it should be brought before the Council by yourself (Hon. W. H. Marsh, C.M.G.) without waiting for the new Governor."

This is scarcely "Unofficial Opposition," and in spite of his urging, the Bill was not introduced until three months later.

In proposing the first reading of this Bill, the Attorney-General, the Hon. E. J. Ackroyd, made some very drastic comments on the condition of the colony then. In introducing the Bill he said:—

It should be well known that the preservation of life and health in great measure depends upon the faithful prosecution of sanitary works.

He then quoted from Dr. Ayres' Report of 5th April, 1875, and said that if any members of the Council had any doubts about the necessity of legislation regarding sanitary matters he would only urge them to read Mr. Chadwick's report, which he also extensively quoted. He went on to say:—

The necessity of the Ordinance and of the execution of the sanitary works can be doubted by no one after reading Mr. Chadwick's Report; and the Government would be guilty of gross negligence in one of its primary duties were it after this warning to neglect any longer the prosecution of these much-needed works. We can prolong life and keep sickness and disease from our midst. It has been shown that sanitary works have saved thousands of human lives and have greatly diminished sickness. The work is difficult and the task arduous, but let us approach it with confidence—confidence that if we manfully persevere to the end success will wait upon us and our reward will be a great one.

It will neither be a mercenary one nor a selfish one. It will consist in distributing blessings of health to those nearest and dearest to us, and when epidemics rage around us in other countries we will dwell secure in our fortress of cleanliness.

What an orator Mr. Ackroyd was. Imagine, ye gods, Hongkong "as a fortress of cleanliness!" His remarks form a splendid homily for our present Government to profit by. He was unfortunately prophetic in saying:—

In speaking of the necessity of taking measures at once we must remember that our negligence in sanitary matters has not yet produced all its effects. We have not felt the result yet. These results do not show themselves at once, but things will go on from bad to worse, and what is easy to cure now will be difficult if not impossible later on.

Mr. Ackroyd then addressed the Council on the advantage of observing "the good old maxim that 'prevention is better than cure.'" Were he here now as public prosecutor, he would have a very fair case against the Government for ignoring his warning. So far in the progress of the Bill for which he so earnestly pleaded, the case of *laissez faire* is against the Government in having permitted such a condition of things to exist, not against the Unofficials, as Mr. May states. The Bill was read a first time unanimously.

It is interesting to compare Mr. Ackroyd's admonitions with the following remarks on the futility of Unofficial effort, as exemplified even on the Sanitary Board, made by Mr. Osborne at a meeting of that body of the 3rd January, 1901—fourteen years later. In reply to a question of Mr. May, Mr. Osborne pointed out that:—

It is because we fear, and have good reason to fear, that our recommendations will be ignored, our proposals rejected, and our labour wasted. Let the Government support the Board in its efforts to cleanse the slums of their filth, to improve the surroundings of the working classes, in whose cheap labour lies the keystone of Hongkong's commercial progress. Let the Government give tangible proof of its sympathy in our crusade against plague, awake from its apathy in regard to the serious questions of overcrowding and burdensome rents—apathy which finds illustration in the Taipingshan resumed area, where land has lain waste for years past, because Government will neither build on it nor sell at a price which will enable private enterprise to do so. Let the Government do these things, and there will be no lack of responsive energy on our part. But until some such assurance be forthcoming, until we can be satisfied that our labour is not in vain, I for one, and I think other members of this Board are with me, have neither the desire nor the intention of occupying myself in the preparation of elaborate reports, the utility of which will be ignored and their value unappreciated.

The opposition commenced on the arrival of Governor Cameron, who attempted to rush the Bill through; when a portion of the public objected to it in the form it was then presented. The Bill had really been drafted by the Sanitary Board, and in commenting on it the *Daily Press* of 11th May, 1887, said:—

That the Public Health Bill will pass the Legislative Council in its present form is beyond all points of possibility. That a Public Health Bill is urgently needed is conceded on all hands. It is incumbent upon the Government to have a new Bill prepared as soon as possible—a Bill which, leaving aside the light of impracticable schemes of the present one, shall embody all the good points in a workable shape.

The Attorney-General admitted that the matter had been rushed, and the Surveyor-General said the authorship of the Bill was mainly attributable to the Sanitary Board. So much, therefore, for Mr. May's charge against the *Daily Press* and the Public of unreasonable opposition to the Bill.

Dr. Ho Kai's protest next came into evidence, representing the feelings of the Chinese, to which the Hongkong Government has ever been strikingly susceptible. His protest met with a rejoinder from the Sanitary Board presented to the Council on 27th May, 1887. Then a Memorial against it was presented to Council, and Mr. May points out that "the late Mr. Granville Sharp said the Memorial was signed by the whole community." This, as Mr. May knows well, was untrue. The Memorial was signed by only 113 foreigners and about the same number of Chinese, and Mr. May would have only been acting fairly had he also quoted Mr. MacEwen, who, in opposition to Mr. Sharp,

pointed out "that a great many people had not signed the Memorial presented, and he himself knew a good many people who had refused to sign it. He hoped the Bill would be pushed forward at once, but at the same time the question of compensation should be dealt with, and he hoped before the second reading the Government would give information on that point." The average reader can therefore judge for himself the extent of the alleged public opposition to this scheme!

Mr. May also cites the Unofficial Opposition in Council to the Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance. This was the opposition of the landlords, and Mr. May is well aware that the Sanitary Board was unanimously in favour of the Bill, and the public also who were not landlords.

The joint-authors in their Memorandum state:—

In paragraph 7, the Petitioners complain by implication of the want of public baths.

We would point out that in comparatively few cities are public baths provided. In many, as in Shanghai for example, they are provided by private enterprise. It is true that Public Bath-houses have not been built here till the current year, when they were undertaken on the Governor's own initiative.

The class of public bath indicated by Mr. Chadwick existed in Manila in the Spanish days. It is valuable information to learn that baths for such purposes are provided by private enterprise in Shanghai, and I am sure the Committee of the Shanghai Swimming Club will appreciate the reference. There is one small swimming bath at Shanghai owned by a club of necessarily small membership. The baths recommended here—and only initiated last year in the form of matched erections—were not exactly swimming baths, and were instituted to see if the grimy unwashed coal and cargo-coolies would use them after their day's labour. No public bathing facilities exist in this colony for the many people unable to afford steam-launch trips, and the matched washing-houses for coolies, which suddenly sprang into existence twenty-one years after the expert recommended them, should be greatly increased, and be made permanent buildings.

In par. 13, the Trio refer to inoculation as a prophylactic measure against plague—pointing out the Chinese would not avail themselves of it. As a matter of fact the Government never gave the Chinese, or the Europeans, the chance, for when the plague was at its worst this year there was not a tube of new plague serum in the colony, excepting some possessed by a local French physician!

The Authors also state in the same paragraph:—

While on the subject of the power of the Sanitary Board to deal with an epidemic, we would venture to point out that although the Board has no spending power, the statement in paragraph 5 that "it is not in any way responsible for the overcrowded and insanitary condition of Hongkong," and that "it is not permitted to exercise any control whatever over its subordinates," is not correct. The Board has the same control over its subordinate officers as any other Government Department has.

The Unofficial members of the Sanitary Board are about to answer the Three Officials for themselves, that is when Messrs Chatham and May can pluck up sufficient courage to allow Mr. Osborne to obtain the information he has asked for, which they have really no power to withhold.

The allusion to the Sanitary Board's "control" over its officers is distinctly amusing. There is not an officer on that Board who is not controlled directly and indirectly by the Government, and no one knows this better than the Supt. of Police, who has personally arrogated to himself other responsibilities in connection with that Board, which are known to most people. I hope in a few days to be able to publish a tale of scandalous treatment of one officer of that Board which will surprise most people, who imagined that "Star Chamber" doings were matters of a remote past.

In the same paragraph there is an attack on the Medical Officer of Health, who is accused of never having taken any action in the closing of houses unfit for human habitation "till reminded of those powers by H.E. the Governor," the said reminder dating from May, 1899.

I refer the three Exponents of Truth to the recommendations of that officer as reported in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of 11th September, 1896, 1st October, 1897, and 4th November, 1898.

In par. 14 it is alleged that the late Dr. Ayres did not use the power he possessed to close insanitary buildings. This is also untrue. Dr. Ayres with Dr. Hartigan tried to do this, in connection with the old No. 5 Police Station near the old cemetery. These medical men, under the authority of that power which the late Colonial Surgeon is accused of never having used, wrote in about it, but their protest was ignored by the Government.

Paras. 15 and 16 are devoted to repudiating the opinions and recommendations of Dr. Lowson, as quoted by the Petitioners. It is a curious spectacle to see three laymen setting up their opinion against the medical man who had charge of the plague work in 1894; and while most people will admire their assurance, they will prefer to accept the statements of the Medical Officer, whose valuable and comprehensive report was approved by the Government and published in the *Government Gazette*. The Trio even go so far as to state the following:—

In spite of the many works and of the most drastic measures the epidemic, though undoubtedly confined within narrower limits, was not "got under" one day sooner than it coased of its own accord in the neighbouring City of Canton, where no steps whatever were taken to combat the plague.

They omit to give their authority for this, which would be of infinite value. They also, on the face of it, allege that "an assistant" is employed to do the harbour medical work, which is misleading Mr. Chamberlain, inasmuch that they forget to state that such work only forms part of that doctor's duties. They also state that "the medical officer's duties at the gaol occupy about one hour a day." If this be true, and I much doubt it, then the heavy mortality in the gaol is not surprising! They also give the first intimation of an assistant medical officer having been engaged, and conclude with a pathetic paragraph, summing up, from their point of view, the situation. The last few lines are really worth quoting:—

It is unfortunate that the Petition as worded is not more worthy of the good cause—the improved sanitation of Hongkong—it purports to serve. Every resident who has the welfare of the colony at heart must be in favour of that cause and it would be a benighted Government that refused to do all in its power to advance it. But the sanitary improvement of the colony in the future is not likely to be secured by misrepresenting its sanitary history in the past.

I have just been informed, on very good authority, that the Official Trio responsible for this precious document were unaware, when they concocted it, that it was intended for publication. They believed their Memorandum would be treated as a confidential despatch to Mr. Chamberlain. If that is correct, then I offer them a profound apology for commenting on what they conceived would be a private despatch. It explains a good deal, for there are so many statements in it which cannot stand public criticism. Their statement quoted "that the Petition is not worthy of the good cause" is a complete admission on their part that such a cause exists. Whether the Petitioners or the Trio have erred in details, is of secondary importance—the Petitioners stated the cause did exist and the Apologists have thus admitted it! As to the "benighted Government," etc., may I refer it to the prophecies of Mr. Ackroyd quoted elsewhere. That the "Sanitation," or even the general "improvement" of this colony is not likely to be served by misrepresentation, I respectfully concur. The charges of the Petitioners were based on the personal experience of the community and substantiated by quotations from departmental reports. The Trio, led by H. E. the Governor, may deny those charges, and scoff at the opinions of those Officials responsible for the quotations, but the fact remains that they are on record, and in the matter of the insanitary condition of this colony, the case simply resolves itself into the opinions of three men versus the statements of medical officials and the united complaints of the community. H. E. the Governor has

evidenced his real opinion by his action in asking for an expert. Consequently, the Memorandum of the Trio stands alone on its merits. I have endeavoured to show a few of its untruths, suppressions and inaccuracies. The statement asked for by Mr. Osborne, and at present refused by two of the Trio, will shew more. Therefore as a public document, the Memorandum fails and it may consequently be consigned to that convenient receptacle of rejected literature—the waste-paper basket. As a private document it may be treasured as a curiosity—showing to what heights the Official imagination, when unrestricted by thoughts of public scrutiny, may soar.

"Alas, poor Yorick!"

SCRUTATOR.

THE CHINA EXPEDITION HONOURS AND PROMOTIONS.

The London *Gazette* publishes the following honours and promotions in connection with the China Expeditionary Forces:—

Sir Claude Macdonald, Colonels Reid, Barrow and Dorward, and Sir Pertab Singh are appointed Knights Commanders of the Bath.

Sir Norman Stewart, Generals Cummins and Lorn Campbell, Colonels Bookey, Gartside, Tipping and Bertie, Majors Bond and Ramsay, are appointed Companions of the Bath.

Major-General Gascoigne is appointed Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George. Commanders Connor, New South Wales Contingent, and Tickell, Victoria Contingent, are made Companions of St. Michael and St. George. Commander Elderton, of the Royal Indian Marines, Majors Johnston, Royal Artillery, and Pereira, Grenadier Guards, Captains Philippa, Griffin and Rowercroft, Lieutenants Gaußen and Bainbridge, Indian Staff Corps, Captains Pell of the Queen's, Poole, East Yorkshires, and Walwyn, Royal Welch Fusiliers, receive the Distinguished Service Order. General Gaselee is promoted to Major-General, and the Maharaja Sindbia is appointed Aide-de-Camp to the King.

The following have received promotion:—

Lieutenant-Colonels O'Sullivan, Royal Engineers, Woon and Pollock, Indian Staff Corps, Majors Johnstone and Luke, Royal Marines, Swan, Bower, Tulloch, Mackenzie-Kennedy, and Vaughan, Staff Corps, St. John, Royal Artillery, Koe, Army Service Corps, Captains Norie of the Middlesex Regiment, Gwynne, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Lee, Royal Engineers, Jermyn, Shaw, Brooking, Napier, Bingley, and Vaughan of the Staff Corps, Wray, Royal Marines, and Veterinary Captain Hazelton.

The following receive the Medal for distinguished conduct in the field:—

Sergeants Murphy and Preston, Corporals Johnson and Gowney, and Private Myers of the Royal Marines, Sergeant Taylor, and Privates Crew, Doodson and Jackson, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Havildar Roshankhan, Hongkong-Singapore Battalion, and Artillery Sergeant Gidieukwee of the Chinese Regiment.

The following Indian honours are also announced:—

Major-General Gaselee to be Knight Grand Commander of the Indian Empire.

The Maharaja of Bikanir to be Knight Commander of the Indian Empire.

To be Companions of the Indian Empire:—

Colonels Rainsford, Radford, Scott-Moncrieff and Waddell, Majors Watson and Scott, Lieutenant Asafalikan, of the Maler-Kotha Sappers, Subadar-Majors Sardarkhan, Hongkong Regiment, and Yasinkhan, 24th Bengal Infantry.

To be a Companion of the Star of India:—

Colonel Richardson of the Indian Staff Corps.

A Japanese fleet consisting of the *Asahi*, *Shikishima*, *Idzumo*, *Asama*, *Tokiwa*, *Kasagi*, *Saiyen*, *Kaimon* and two torpedo-boats, the *Yugiri* and *Sasanami*, put into Chemulpo on the last day of July. The Coreans swarmed the hill-tops, and had all kinds of reports going, one of which was that a rebellion had broken out in Fusen and that the ships had been there and had killed numbers of Coreans. The Japanese ships, however, only intended to make a five days' stay and then to proceed to Chinnampo.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 10th August.

OFFICIALS AND GAMBLING.

A recent resolution of the Senate called forth a storm of righteous indignation from the rank and file of the municipal subordinate officers. The motion was brought forward by Mr. Edwards Marques and reads as follows:—

"That all municipal officers, of whatever class belonging, shall be prohibited from frequenting the fuman gambling houses, under penalty of reprimand for the first offence, suspension from office for the second, and dismissal for the third."

The motion, being supported by the entire body of the Senators present at the meeting, with the single exception of the President, was duly passed. The President, in opposing the resolution tooth and nail, delivered an excellent speech, the substance of which should be noted. In the course of his remarks he said, whatever the expediency or the good intentions of the mover of the resolution in urging its adoption, he felt it his duty to strenuously oppose a measure which, if enacted, would have the effect of restricting the individual liberty of the subject. True that the enactment would affect only a small number of persons as represented by the body of the officers in the municipal service, but he felt it none the less imperative to see that no law should be enacted—if only departmental—whose result would enslave the liberty which every citizen, in common with his fellow-subjects, has the inalienable right to enjoy. The resolution they were considering would have this effect. Moreover, the restriction is wholly inconsistent with the legislation of the colony. Gambling is not only tolerated, but is actually legalised by the laws of the country. It would also be unfair to the gambling farmer, since it would constitute an infringement of the privileges for which he pays a large sum yearly. The constitutional laws are explicit in that no police, municipal, or Government regulations can be framed with the intention of inflicting punishments not specifically provided by law (Art. 486 of the Penal Code).

TWO COMMISSIONS.

The appointment of two Commissions of Enquiry is gazetted in a recent issue of the *Boletim Oficial*. The first is the Land Commission, having for its object the investigation of the titles of land in this colony and other kindred subjects. The wonder is that such an enquiry was not held long ago. The report should set at rest many a misapprehension as to the alleged existence of defective title-deeds and the re-adjustment of boundaries of existing lots. As to the latter head of inquiry it is suggested that several encroachments should be looked into. A similar question afforded the Hongkong Land Commission much scope for useful work.

OUR BANKING SYSTEM.

The other Commission is to enquire into and report upon the system—or rather the absence of one—of banking in the colony. Bearing in mind the recommendations of the *Local Councillors* to the National Congress, it is doubtful whether any measures calculated to supply the present deficiency will be recommended to Government. But it is not unreasonable to suppose that a matter so closely associated with the advancement, or retrogression, of the trade of the port, should not be lightly dismissed without careful and searching investigation at the hands of the Commissioners. It appears that the consensus of local opinion is that, having regard to present needs, the existing system of Chinese counting-houses should not be made to give way to a regulated system of banking as is known and recognised amongst European nations. To combat this view, and as showing the urgent necessity, in the interests of trade, for an early reform of the unsatisfactory methods hitherto prevailing, I will quote in extenso the recommendations of Mr. A. E. Hippisley, the former Commissioner of the Lappa Customs, in one of his Decennial Reports. I trust the weighty arguments in favour of a change will merit the earnest attention of both the Commissioners and the Government. Mr. Hippisley wrote:—

"Native traders maintain that the absence of banks which would advance on a junk's cargo so soon as she reaches port militates strongly

against Macao's trade. On the other hand, at Kongmun such facilities already exist. There, as soon as a junk arrives, banks are ready to make advances against the cargo, which enable the consignees to expedite the vessel, discharge and to at-once purchase return cargo, with the result that a larger number of voyages can be made in the year and capital turned over more frequently. In consequence, a larger portion of the West Coast trade tends each year to abandon Macao in favour of Kongmun. Macao's future prospect is, therefore, not just now a bright one. First and foremost, if Macao is to remain a port of any importance whatever, it is necessary that Portugal wake up from her present lethargy of indifference, and permit her colony to undertake the dredging of the approaches to the port. The next most important step would appear to be the establishment of a bonded warehouse, in which goods could be placed on arrival under the charge of responsible persons, so that the Banks might be induced to make on them the advances necessary to expedite the movement of shipping. . . . The aggregate of these advances would amount to so large a sum and the security be of so high a class that a foreign Bank would probably soon recognise the advisability of establishing a branch in Macao, and, as it would be content with a lower rate of interest than is demanded by native banks doing similar business at Kongmun and elsewhere, the advantages Macao would enjoy as a commercial centre would be yet further increased."

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 13th August.

FOREIGN MERCHANTS ASK FOR CONSULS' INTERVENTION.

As indicated in my last communication, unless the provincial authorities intervene local trade may be severely affected by the fact that, owing to the supineness and partly to the powerlessness of the Chinese officials, clan fights are still in progress, and hence rural commerce is almost at a standstill. The port of Swatow itself is merely a distributing centre which forwards to and receives from the adjacent districts and the interior all its goods. The foreign hongs, who now are beginning to perceive the harm done by the disturbed state of the surrounding country, have addressed a petition to the German Consul, a dozen of the consular body, asking him to protest to the Viceroy of this province at Canton against the hostilities carried on round here. It is hoped that the Consul's protest will have the desired effect.

NATIVE CHRISTIANS TO THE FORE AGAIN.
I am informed that the elders of the various clans now engaged in strife tried the other day to settle existing disputes and to compensate those who suffered essential monetary losses, but their efforts were rendered futile owing to the native Roman Catholic Christians demanding more than their just claims. It appears that some of the officials also attempted to bring matters to a settlement, but their good intentions were of no avail, the Romanist converts proving stubborn in resisting all their arrangements.

A DROWNING FATALITY.

Mr. Shearer, late second engineer of the s.s. *Chefco*, met with an untimely death on Sunday last. It appears that he had just left his steamer to walk on shore, when, on stepping over a bridge that connects the pontoon with the shore, he missed his footing, it being then dusk, and fell into the water, which at the time was nine feet deep. The body was recovered at the place where Mr. Shearer is supposed to have dropped in. An inquest presided over by H.B.M. Consul will be held to-day at Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's office.

A LOSS TO THE COMMUNITY.

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of Mr. O. Lang, of the Customs, which occurred early this morning. Mr. Lang had been suffering from typhoid for the past 16 days and seemed to be progressing favourably, when suddenly a change for the worse came over him and his temperature was at 108 up to the time of his expiring. Mr. Lang was

the son of the well-known Admiral Lang, resident in England, and occupied a prominent position in the community, which mourns his loss sadly. Deceased was, I believe, 25 years of age.

THE "VIPERE,"
fast and furious cruiser of the French navy, is in our midst again. She left here on a cruise that was as much mysterious as unknown on the 5th and returned hither on the 10th. *En passant*, I may mention her facetious nickname of the "Wife her."

LABOUR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 5th August.

THE NATIVE WORKMAN.

Capital interests are likely to be concerned with labour-supply as soon as these islands can be brought into shape, for the commercial growth expected of them. There is no precedent here upon which to build definite forecasts. The common impression of the native is that if he may own a *caribao*, escape direct taxation, and have plenty of leisure in which to sit in the sun in peace, his cup of content will be full. Industry, government and such things may do what they like so long as they do not bother him. This disposition to eat, sleep and view the scenery, rather than get down to daily grind has not been indulged everywhere in the islands at all times, but the climate favours it, nature is a good provider, and experience and testimony that the Filipino likes to be his own easy master make out a fairly good case.

CHINESE EXCLUSION.

It may be a question where to find labour, if the native ambition should prove unequal to the projects of capital. China might furnish a ready answer, were immigration free, but the barriers are already as high against influx from that quarter as they are in the United States, and there is no policy to which the native mind is more strongly committed than upon that of Chinese exclusion. It is commonly agreed that the business head of the average native family is the woman. The white soldier is so much out of the running when a coloured hero in khaki appears, as to suggest that the vexing problem of the disposition of blacks in the South might be solved in this field, colonizing them where they would find climate and society alike congenial. Far from being objectionable, a new strain of blood is believed by many to be necessary to energize the people sufficiently for the demands of labour. It will not be reasonably opposed on the ground that racial purity should be preserved, for the aboriginal foundation has been superimposed by layers of Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Malay and Spanish, until only the assurance of the professional ethnologist, who may rely upon becoming so scientific that no one can follow him, can presume to furnish a competent analysis.

NATIVE HOSTILITY TO CHINESE.

Although there is perhaps little danger that Chinese labour will be imported, the outlook points to an agitation in the not distant future in favour of changes in the law which will admit such labour, at least under temporary arrangement. Such native expression as has been heard upon this subject opposes utterly the admission of Chinese upon any pretext or for any purpose whatever. The view that favours their coming does not go beyond bringing them in on contract and sending them out as soon as the work for which they come is completed. Natives object to them because Chinese absorb the retail trade, set examples of hustling that are both unwelcome and disagreeable, and become demoralizing social and commercial factors otherwise. Those who think they should be brought in for contract service say that they make the only reliable labour in this part of the world, and that enterprise must halt unless their help may be had to push it.

If the Chinese could or would stick to their lasts, the natives might dislike them less. They come here generally as coolies, ready to go into the fields or to do any kind of heavy work for small pay. Presently they blossom out as shopmen. They manage after a little to lend money on crops and become a creditor class almost before the natives realize it. They mingle with natives only when it is distinctly

to their advantage to do so. They learn the language, marry the women, join the church, attend the cockfights and are usually around wherever there is a good profit to be pulled off or a chance for one. Scruples of the women probably furnish them the leading motive for church attachments, for the women wish to be properly married when they can be. Their willingness to marry Chinese is explained by the promise of more comforts of living than can come usually from a native alliance. Along with this prospect they are probably aware that the Chinese has a wife or a betrothed in China, and that interests must be stronger than domestic ones to keep him here after he thinks that he has sufficient money to enable him to go there and end his days in good circumstances. A church connection under the old rule was at one time the only life insurances with which a Chinese could provide himself. There is a cathedral in one of the outlying towns in which the vestal fires have for many years been kept continually burning by Chinese, but whether from faith or tradition, their consciences alone know. The tradition is that the convert who originally looked after the fires won first prize in the Philippine lottery.

THE MESTIZOS.

Some of the brightest people in the islands are the offspring of Chinese-Filipino marriages, and some of the most unscrupulous. All that may be heard or said against half-castes anywhere applies to the mestizos of these islands. They were behind the insurrection, Aguinaldo and others of them being leaders in it. Much of the wealth of the islands in private hands is theirs. When agriculture flourished, they made advances on crops and accumulated the mortgages with which much of the land is burdened. Export business was beyond their control, but they handled products up to the export point, with all the profits accruing therefrom. They managed the juntas that fed the insurrection, scalping for themselves there also at every turn. It is the testimony of naval officers who have patrolled the island waters against smugglers of contraband that whenever they overhauled a boat engaged in this business, they invariably found mestizos, or Chinese in their employ, in it. The mestizos now lead in professions of loyalty to the United States, the Chinese again ably seconding them.

THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE CHINESE.

It has been urged on behalf of Chinese labour that the argument for exclusion which brought about the passage of the United States law cannot hold here, because of the radically differing conditions in the two places. In one case unrestricted immigration menaced and threatened to undermine energetic labour; in the other, since labour has not acquired a dignity of its own, but has always been unwilling and indolent, it deserves no consideration. Conditions in Singapore are cited to show what might happen in the Philippines were immigration unrestricted. There the Chinese are among the most substantial residents and among the most highly respected. Of course only experience can furnish adequate material for judgment in such a matter, and one of the puzzles of the situation here is that in spite of all that may be seen and heard against the Chinese, individuals of that race may be met in almost every section who have fitted themselves into the social and commercial life of the islands as to have become as much a part of that life and as creditable to it as any other class. There is scarcely an important settlement in which Chinese may not be found who have lived there from forty to sixty years, who apparently enjoy the respect of their communities, and who say that they know and expect to know no other home.

PAST HISTORY OF CHINESE IN THE ISLANDS.

Perhaps there may be a suggestion in the fact that few Chinese have landed here except coolies, and that what they have become is self-made, with an environment never influential to repress tendencies toward vice and cunning, and usually calculated to encourage and to develop such tendencies. The Chinese was always a despised race, and might well have felt itself under perpetual challenge to display to the utmost its crafty qualities. It might not have been possible to mould these people to

habits and purposes having regard for ends not purely selfish and for means not largely unscrupulous. Neither natives nor Spaniards concerned themselves about that. There was no incentive to the Chinese to have any object in life here other than to make all the money or acquire all the property they could. They might naturally have done the most with their opportunities in any case, but here no inducement was put forth to lead them to be honest or straightforward, and having one object in mind, the checks that restrain dealings in China were not imposed here, and they indulged their propensities unbridled.

While exceptions frequently appear, the rule supposed to guide Chinese conduct is to get money by any means. The Chinese became long ago notorious as adulterants of things to eat, drink and wear. Philippine exports fell under general suspicion when they passed through Chinese hands. They cheated in weight as well as in quality, and did everything possible to cast discredit on commerce. Yet in spite of these tendencies and practices, and of native jealousy, hatred, and contempt for them, when at one time they were driven out, the Governor of the islands felt obliged to arrange for their return, because he found that business suffered by their absence. They were, and they continue to be, the vehicle between the import and export houses on one hand and the consumer and producer on the other.

RUNNING OUT THE NATIVES.

Chinese shopkeeping is not a business of competition among themselves. They will resort to every means to run out natives, but will not cut prices against each other. A wholesaler may thus send to every Chinese shopkeeper in a town goods to be sold at a certain price, and there will be no deviation from it. They have no bargains to offer, nor do they seek to induce trade otherwise. If consumers want their goods, their price must be paid. Their thirst enabling them to lend money on land and products, they got the whip hand at almost all of the important trade centres. Country peddling also fell almost wholly to them. Natives formerly had the shops, but they never took the migratory life and the burdensome toil of peddlers, so that in occupying this field the Chinese found chances for which the natives would never trouble themselves to look, and helped their compatriots in the towns to reduce the demands upon native shops.

UNSCRUPULOUS DEALINGS.

Having always in mind their one object in coming here, lack of scruple in gaining that object did not stop at imposing light weight, impure goods and top prices on those to whom they sold. Those from whom they bought received almost as little consideration. Wholesalers have always had to allow in their calculations for failures among merchants. Chinese make no halfway work in this line. When bankrupt assets run as high as ten per cent., wholesalers count themselves lucky. Bankrupts have not always waited for inventories to be figured out. That process and its results being of interest to others rather than to themselves, they have frequently reached the China coast before its completion, and sometimes before creditors became aware that it would be necessary. No means of identification or police methods were discovered to prevent hasty departures, or to detain, overhaul or extradite Chinese who chose to round out their fortunes and terminate their foreign residence in this way. The petition of the Spanish Governor, after the Chinese massacre and expulsion, for the return of merchants from that country was granted upon an arrangement that involved the favoured nation clause, and carried with it the privilege for Chinese merchants to go and come without question, thus adding to the other difficulties of restraining delinquents and bankrupts from seeking safe refuge out of the country when so inclined.

THE LABOUR FUTURE.

Tendencies and practices which lift Chinese immigrants here out of the coolie class and make of them shopmen, peddlers, merchants, money lenders, plantation factors and schemers in commercial fraud, level opposition particularly against the merchant class. It is barely possible that if a way could be devised to confine Chinese immigrants to work in the fields or

mines, the opposition would become less pronounced. Efforts in other years directed to that end proved futile, perhaps because of slack administration, or perhaps it did not suit the corrupting and selfish plans of the officials to heed native prejudices. A contract system has been proposed whereby immigrants may come in by cargoes for specific purposes, contractors furnishing bonds for their delivery or return on demand. Since any such arrangement would virtually adopt for the islands the contract labour system, those who are to direct government would have to consider it not only with reference to existing conditions and in view of the native hostility to Chinese immigration, but also mindful of the possible political development of the islands and of the prospect that the time may not be distant when the Constitution will follow the flag far enough at least to make the same labour laws applicable to the United States and the Philippines.

In spite of appearances it would be a rash conclusion that Filipinos may not become equal to furnishing the labour of the islands. As a matter of experience they have found themselves forced to do the drudgery when Chinese who came here for that purpose stepped out from the coolie class and left no substitutes to take up the tasks thus abandoned. Immigration laws heretofore have been such as to encourage native indolence, for the Chinese labour supply has never gone long without replenishment. It would seem that the lesson which conditions have taught should now be well learned. The widespread hostility to the Chinese certainly shows that it has not been lost. Just now the native mind is optimistic. It believes that new conditions of government will bring prosperity, in which labour will share. The prospect of getting better returns for work than was formerly possible is thus held out as an incentive to make such returns contribute to the welfare and comfort of those who are or will be fully identified with the islands, and own no allegiance except to the flag that flies over them.

A DIVISION OF TRADES.

It will not be confessed that trouble heretofore has been because natives could not work. When immigration had official backing and the returns of labour fell to the Chinese level, feeling prevailed that the combination was too strong to make it worth while to fight it. So discontent found vent in hatred, with murder as a frequent incident. Occasionally communities united to keep out the Chinese, and succeeded. The pueblo of Taal, in Batangas Province, furnishes a case in point. All industry and business there are in native hands, much to the satisfaction of the people. This was accomplished at the cost of Chinese lives, but now one of that race would as soon think of going voluntarily to Taal as to the headsman. Custom at this port has left in native hands the work of loading and discharging ships, than which there is no heavier work in the islands. Only natives may drive passenger vehicles in Manila, showing again what persistence in custom may do. On the other hand, Chinese generally are the carpenters, the boilermakers, the mechanics and the small tradesmen. Whether or not they are superior servants, they seem to be preferred as cooks. The army has found them faithful, submissive and fearless as litter bearers, when natives could not be trusted for that work.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

This presents both sides of an agitation that is already exciting wide interest, and which threatens to increase as plans mature for the development of the islands. There can be no use in figuring in this connection for present purposes upon reformatory methods that will apply to Chinese habits or aspirations. No influences yet operative can be expected to make of the Chinese either Americans or Filipinos in thought or action. They are after the dollar solely in order that they may take it back home and enjoy it there. Whether from lack of faith in the rule now installed, from popular hostility or from a habit of thought in relation to affairs Philippine, inducing them to regard it as a field for temporary plunder, the Chinese have not yet been disposed to identify themselves with local life as they have in Singapore.

The new rule may change that attitude, and admission is urged as if such was the expectation. Since no chances in respect to per-

manency of abode and of interest need be taken, however, with the natives, it may be regarded as highly probable that the policy of exclusion will be continued until the natives shall have a fair chance to show if they can supply the labour of the islands, and that immigration which has so far only corroded and sterilised the wealth of the islands will not be permitted while labour resources otherwise remain unexhausted.

WEIHAIWEI.

Weihaiwei, 27th July.

THE FUTURE OF THE COLONY

has been a matter for much discussion of late. A few days ago a telegram from London, the result, it is said, of a recent Cabinet meeting, put a stop to all work on the fortifications. According to native rumour the colony is to be handed over to Germany!

The real reason for the suspension of military works on Liukungtao is in all probability connected with the recent proposal to hand over the smaller coaling stations to the Admiralty. The final decision on the question is reserved for the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Present indications are that the island will be used entirely for naval purposes. The Commissioner will move over to the mainland. With him will go the military and civil headquarters, and the centre of gravity of our civil and governmental life will be in or near Mahto, to the north of the harbour.

THE NAVAL THEORY

appears to favour the idea of using this port as a sanatorium and a supply-base where ships may provision and take in water, but to have it absolutely unfortified. Up till now, £20,000 and more has been spent on four forts and the roads, etc., connected with them. If the Admiralty assumes control, all this money will have been spent in vain—interesting news for the long-suffering British taxpayer!

In case of war it is argued that the fleet should not remain locked up in port, but would cruise outside. To fortify adequately would cost an enormous sum. Inadequate fortifications would only prove an additional source of weakness. Where experts differ, it is useless for the civilian to attempt to enter the field of discussion. This sudden change seems to betray an astonishing lack of unity of purpose. Is it another indication—if indication were wanting—that the two services do not and will not pull together?

If the decision of the Cabinet favours naval control of the island, military and civil headquarters might be moved to Mahto as early as this autumn—a good thing for some people! It is even reported that Queen's Hotel may be taken over after the season for the Commissioner's residence and for Government offices.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

COREA.

Chemulpo, 27th July.

Yesterday the Corean Government issued an order that no rice or grain should be exported after date of the reception of this notice, the cause being that little short of a famine threatens the country. The whole country is in a most dreadful state. Challoo province, the greatest-rice growing district, has hardly a hundred fields planted with rice. Many farmers have planted other things in the old rice-fields and these also are fast dying for want of a little rain. I have just made a trip through the country from Fusen to Chemulpo, travelling about five hundred miles altogether, and from what I observed I should say that although rain may come, ruin and starvation await hundreds of farmers. The Corean Government has bought up all the rice in the stores and godowns of any size, and come what will something akin to famine must overtake the Coreans this winter.

The English gunboat *Brisk* arrived at Fusen on July 24th with Mr. Gubbins, who is Acting English Minister during Mr. Jordan's absence in England. She called at the way ports en route. Mr. McLeavy Brown, Chief Commissioner of Customs, is going home, on leave it is said. All kinds of reports are going the rounds. Great changes have taken place in the Customs within the last two weeks; Mr. Chalmers has gone from Chemulpo to take Mr.

Brown's place in Seoul; Mr. Laport has been transferred from Fusen to Chemulpo; Mr. McOsborne goes to Fusen. These changes will be subject to another before long. A former Fusen Customs Commissioner, Mr. Hunt, is again in Fusen with the object of repairing his old house. His rank in the Chinese Customs is that of full Commissioner and his return adds one more wonder to the many already connected with the Corean Customs.

Last night rain fell—the first for many weeks. Great joy filled the hearts of all at the much wanted rain. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining drinking water, and in consequence the washermen have raised the price of washing.

Everywhere, in all the open ports, important buildings and shops are being built. Most of these are of course Japanese, and Fusen takes the lead in this respect; then comes Chemulpo, where handsome godowns now line the Japanese Bund. Several fine stores are being built and some beautiful private residences for foreigners.—*Kobe Herald.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

INELIGIBLE WIVES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

10th August.

SIR.—I notice that the Hon. F. H. May, in a speech before the Sanitary Board, re quarters for sanitary inspectors, said:—"It is not every inspector who is married"; and again, "there was a certain class of women recognised as ineligible to live in married quarters."

I ask, Sir, recognised as ineligible by whom? and why? Is it by the Captain Superintendent alone? I presume he refers to Portuguese women, of whom eight or nine are married to Sanitary Inspectors. We may expect the Hon. gentleman to presently declare the Portuguese ineligible to live. Can he allege that these marriages are either illegal or immoral? Everyone must know that there are not sufficient English women in the colony for subordinate officers to marry Englishwomen exclusively: and for an Englishman to settle in the colony with a reasonable likelihood of keeping in good health they cannot do better than marry a Portuguese if they have an opportunity.

Does the Hon. gentleman wish to carry the methods of his own departments into other branches of the Colonial service? I know for a fact that a warden in the gaol, married to a daughter of a Government servant who was killed in the execution of his duty, has been told he is ineligible to occupy the newly erected married quarters for gaol officers because his wife is a Portuguese; nor does he receive any allowance in lieu thereof.

I venture to state, having a considerable acquaintance with Portuguese wives, that they make wives second to none; and if our Government desire a healthy settled race of British subjects in the colony, they could not do better than encourage such unions; as when an Englishman marries a Portuguese woman they generally settle down in the colony; and produce children more likely to develop into healthy men and women than children born of parents both British. Also a man getting his wife from home is always looking forward to return home as soon as possible. Further I would point out that the Colonial Government offer no encouragement to officers to marry from England; or if married to bring their wives out. I know of a married man engaged in England who was offered in one of Captain May's departments the munificent sum of £20 a month to provide quarters, fuel and light, and servants; his agreement stating these would be provided or an allowance in lieu thereof. He of course preferred to leave his family in England and decided to return himself as soon as possible.

It is difficult to understand Capt. May's objection to Portuguese women; is it on account of nationality or are we to recognise the Hon. gentleman in a new light, viz., a militant

Orangeman, objecting to these unions on religious grounds?—Yours, etc.,
PREPARED TO PROVE ALL
I HAVE SAID.

[We have received another letter to the same effect.—ED. D.P.]

A PERTINENT QUERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

12th August.

SIR,—Permit me space in your valuable paper to enquire why the shade-giving trees on the side of Queen's Road immediately facing the Cricket Ground are being mutilated and cut down. At present three of them have been attacked. These trees do not interfere with the traffic or with the health of the town, and their presence certainly helps to give an air of picturesqueness to an otherwise anything but pleasant road, with its dust and sun-glare.

Why then should those trees be done away with? Surely we in this colony, what with faulty drainage, plague, police discontent, prickly heat, and ill-smelling alley-ways, cannot afford to root out the few beauty spots we possess. Whoever is responsible for this mutilation of the appearance of Queen's Road ought, in Yankee parlance, be ridden on a rail and chased from the colony.—Yours, etc.,

AN ENQUIRER.

THE BUILDING COLLAPSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

15th August.

SIR,—Might I suggest to "Scoutator" for the subject of another pamphlet a résumé of the Building Ordinances of Hongkong: also a record of the collapses of buildings that have occurred within the last ten years, with the butcher's bill, not excluding the fifty killed or wounded in last night's demonstration of the stability of Hongkong houses, with a photograph illustration of the remaining portion of Cochrane Street? An analysis of the D.P.W. list with salaries and work allotted to each individual might help those at a distance to understand the working of a Crown Colony, and, as we were reminded the other day, the colony that was the first acquisition made under the reign of Her late Majesty.

The buildings of Cochrane Street and other places in this colony are a sorry monument to her memory, and something worse to the wisdom of her representatives here.—Yours, etc.,

Q.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LTD.

The following is the report of the board of directors of the above Company to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the offices of the Company on the 19th inst:—

Gentlemen,—The directors have now to submit to you their report, with a statement of accounts for the half-year ended 30th June last. The net profit for the six months, after paying interest due and all charges, amounts to \$9,6,558.66 To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account \$256,757.20 Less bonus to shareholders paid in accordance with resolution passed in extraordinary general meeting, 21st January, 1901 37,500.00 219,257.20 81,125,815.86

And from this have to be deducted—

Directors' fees \$10,000.00
Auditors' fees 750.00

10,750.00

Leaving available for appropriation \$1,115,065.86

The directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent. or \$250,000, and a bonus of 8 per cent. or \$200,000, in all \$450,000, be paid to the shareholders, and a bonus of

\$820,000 to contributing shareholders, that \$114,159.37 be written from the value of the Kowloon Docks, \$67,211.34 from the Cosmopolitan Dock, and \$4,000 from steam launches, the balance \$459,695.15 to be carried to the new account.

The large turnover at our establishments during the past half-year, being the highest on record, should be very gratifying to the shareholders, as it proves that the increasing facilities at the docks enable the work to be completed more expeditiously. When all the contemplated improvements are finished we will be able to execute a still larger volume of work.

The new machine shops at Kowloon Docks are being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, but their completion will be delayed to some extent owing to the scarcity of Chinese skilled labour. A portion of the proposed electrical installation for Kowloon Docks has already been ordered, and it is hoped that the whole plant will be erected in working order by about this time next year. We shall then have most complete engineering shops and plant.

The new forge at Kowloon Docks is partly completed and is being worked with good results. When the 10-ton hammer is erected in place and the other furnaces working we shall be in a position to undertake any heavy work that may be offered us.

The demand for dock accommodation has continued as great if not greater than that of any previous six months and the want of further facilities for our business is more and more felt. Your directors are however glad to be able to report that substantial progress has been made in their negotiations with the Government for an extension of our present property, and there seems now a reasonable chance of these negotiations being brought to a satisfactory conclusion before long. As soon as this matter is definitely settled preparations for the building of a new dock will be pushed on with all possible speed.

Your directors have to report that your chief manager, Mr. Gillies, who for the past 26 years has managed the business of the company with such distinguished success, and been greatly instrumental in raising it to the fine position it is now in, has definitely tendered his resignation, which, in view of his desire to retire from the management and from the active business life he has hitherto led, your directors have felt bound to accept. At the approaching general meeting your directors will propose that Mr. Gillies' long and valuable services to the Dock Company be acknowledged in a suitable form. To take Mr. Gillies's place a gentleman who comes to us with the highest testimonials and recommendations, and who has been in charge of one or more of the largest dockyards at home, has been engaged, and is expected to arrive here next month.

R. SHewan,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 8th August, 1901.

The following are the accounts from January to June, 1901:—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1901. ASSETS. \$ c.

To value of Aberdeen Docks, as per last statement 100,000.00

KOWLOON.

To value of Kowloon Docks, \$ c. as per last statement 1,682,862.06
Less amount since written off 82,562.06

1,600,000.00

To amount paid in connection with purchase of Hunghom inland lots Nos. 13, 14, 61, 65 and 67 71 21,300.00

To amount paid on account of removal of hill on the new extension, Kowloon marine lot No. 27 4,093.87

To amount paid on account of cutting away hill at head of No. 1 Dock 590.00

To amount paid on account of making new road 208.00

To amount paid on account of 16 new houses for European foremen 44,245.50

To amount paid on account of new iron store 9,590.00

To amount paid on account of new fitting shop 47,021.00

To amount paid on account of new forge 11,078.00

1,774.00

	\$ c.
To amount paid on account of No. 2 Dock; cost of one new Worthington steam pump and fitting same	4,218.00
To amount paid on account of new hydraulic installation	4,578.00
To cost of new machines for boiler shop	6,415.00
To cost of new machines for engine shop	27,524.00
To cost of new machines for coppersmiths' shop	206.00
To cost of new machines for blacksmiths' shop	246.00
To cost of new machines for saw mill	1,177.00
To cost of new 10-ton double-acting steam hammer for new forge	17,575.00
To cost of new air-compressor, complete, for yard	9,370.00
	<u>1,814,159.37</u>

	\$ c.
To value of Cosmopolitan Dock, as per last statement	340,769.00
Less amount since written off	17,769.00
	<u>323,000.00</u>
To amount paid on account of saw-mill extension	3,000.00
To amount paid on account of 4 new houses for European foremen	4,775.00
To amount paid on account of alterations and extensions to pump-house, fitting one additional boiler, and 3 additional pumps	10,312.99
To amount paid on account of laying railway track throughout the yard	5,358.51
To amount paid on account of electric-light installation throughout yard and workshops	20,764.84
	<u>367,211.34</u>

	\$ c.
To value of Fune, as per last account	15,000.00
To value of steam launches, steam lighter, lighters and boats, as per last account	48,640.00
Less amount since written off	4,640.00
	<u>44,000.00</u>
To sundry debtors	270,960.30
To cost of material on hand as per stock lists	1,893,841.98
Less amount written off in accordance with resolution of shareholders' meeting 25th February, 1901	97,620.07
	<u>1,796,221.91</u>
	<u>\$4,407,572.92</u>

	\$ c.
By shareholders for 50,000 shares of \$50 each fully paid-up	2,500,000.00
By Admiralty loan £2,000 0 0	11,398 14 4
Less repayments	1,125,815.86

	\$ c.
By sundry creditors	692,730.30
By balance of profit brought forward from last account	256,757.20
Less bonus to shareholders paid in accordance with resolution passed in extraordinary general meeting 21st Jan., 1901	37,500.00
	<u>219,257.20</u>
By profit	1,125,815.86
	<u>\$4,407,572.92</u>

	\$ c.
30th June, 1901. LIABILITIES.	<u>\$ c.</u>
By shareholders for 50,000 shares of \$50 each fully paid-up	2,500,000.00
By Admiralty loan £2,000 0 0	11,398 14 4
Less repayments	1,125,815.86
	<u>80,026.76</u>

	\$ c.
By sundry creditors	692,730.30
By balance of profit brought forward from last account	256,757.20
Less bonus to shareholders paid in accordance with resolution passed in extraordinary general meeting 21st Jan., 1901	37,500.00
	<u>219,257.20</u>
By profit	1,125,815.86
	<u>\$4,407,572.92</u>

	\$ c.
30th June, 1901. REVENUE ACCOUNT.	<u>\$ c.</u>
To interest	20,692.03
To Crown rent	3,020.06
To fire insurance	3,137.98
To office expenses, salaries, stationery and rent of head office	42,170.71
To drawing office expenses and salaries	11,825.57
To telegrams	2,063.80
To legal expenses	941.80
To profit	906,156.63
	<u>900,231.50</u>

	\$ c.

<tbl_r cells="2" ix

UNIVERSAL TRADING COMPANY, LTD.

The following is the report of the general manager for the year ending the 30th June, 1901, for presentation to the shareholders at the first ordinary annual meeting of the company to be held at the Registered Office of the Company, 4, Des Voeux Road Central, on Saturday, the 17th August, at noon:

Gentlemen.—I have the pleasure to submit to you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending June, 1901.

The net profit for that period amounts to \$43,187.18. After deducting the interim dividend of 30 cents per share paid on the 21st January last, there remains a sum of \$28,187.18 which it is proposed to deal with as follows:

To pay a dividend of 75 cents per share on 6,200 shares at \$20	
fully paid up	8,465.00
and 30 cents per share on 43,800	
shares at \$5 paid up	13,140.00
place to reserve fund	10,000.00
" carry forward to next year's account	397.18
	<hr/>
	\$28,187.18

When the Company was established, I undertook there will be no charge made for management during the first year, and it will be noticed, I accordingly forego my renumeration for that period.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts, who offers himself for election.

ELLIS KADOORIE,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 13th August, 1901.

The following are the accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1901:

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital—		
6,200 shares at \$20 fully paid up	124,000.00	
43,800 shares at \$5 paid up ...	219,000.00	
	<hr/>	
Sundry creditors	1,184.10	
Balance of profit and loss	28,187.18	
	<hr/>	
ASSETS.	\$	c.
Loans	342,037.75	
Hongkong and Sh'hai Banking Corporation	146.16	
Sundry debtors	29,584.07	
Furniture	600.00	
Cash on hand	3.80	
	<hr/>	
	\$372,371.28	

PROFIT AND LOSS.

	\$	c.
Charges	2,869.55	
Furniture account depreciation	85.49	
Interim dividend	15,000.00	
Auditor's fee	100.00	
Balance	28,187.18	
	<hr/>	
Interest on loans	46,242.22	

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 9th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

THE KILLING OF A PONY.

Further evidence for the prosecution in this adjourned case in the Supreme Court having been heard, Mr. Pontifex called for the defence the wife of the defendant, Kwok Kong. Barefooted and dressed in the usual garb of the sampan woman, she stepped briskly into the box.

Witness deposed to the engaging of her husband's boat by a coolie employed by the compradore of the Commissariat Department, who told her to take a horse-box on board and go off to a troohip. She did not know they were to take a pony ashore until the horse-box was lowered from the steamer into the hold of the cargo-boat. The horse was very wild on

the way back to the wharf, and again when the box was on the point of being swung on to the pier. It was then that the rope broke. That was the first time witness had taken a pony ashore from a ship, and she would not have undertaken the job had she known its nature. After the pony fell they tried to stand it on its legs, to see if it was dead. The crew of the cargo-boat then went away, all except witness and an old woman. Witness stood on the pier, but was always close to the boat. The boat was arrested on the 13th July, and since then witness had been unable to use it in the earning of her livelihood.

By Mr. Hastings—The cargo-boat was engaged to take some things from the wharf to the ship, but nothing was said of taking anything back. Witness knew that her tackle was not strong enough to land the horse, and said so. Witness was sure she had never carried horses before; her licence did not permit it.

By His Lordship—Witness's rope was not employed to lower the horse-box from the steamer to the cargo-boat. The rope had been in use for a year, and was the best witness had. The reason witness did not leave the troohip when she had discharged the horse-box was that an Englishman from the steamer beckoned her to stay.

This closed the evidence.

Mr. Pontifex submitted that, admitting Captain Trefusis was suing in his capacity as bailee, and admitting also that he had a right to recover, the evidence showed he had lost absolutely nothing, and had not paid out one cent.

His Lordship—Is he a debtor, then, and liable to pay for this damage?

Mr. Pontifex—Supposing that were so, I submit he has brought his action too soon.

His Lordship—You mean, then, that Captain Trefusis in all these proceedings was merely the agent in giving orders for Commander Erakine, and, as agent, would be liable for nothing?

Mr. Pontifex replied in the affirmative, and, after commenting on the taking out of the writ, and expressing the belief that in taking it out neither Captain Trefusis nor his solicitor had been actuated by the former's position as bailee, which was purely an afterthought, went over the evidence of the various witnesses for the prosecution. He was preparing to quote from previous cases when His Lordship, owing to the lateness of the hour, adjourned the Court and asked Mr. Pontifex to consider the following points—(1) Was this contract made on behalf of Captain Trefusis? (2) If so, what was the position of Captain Trefusis in making the contract: was he the principal or was he merely the agent?

His Honour gave judgement on the 15th inst. for the defendant with costs. We hold the judgement over.

Saturday, 10th August.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISS (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING WEAVING AND DYEING COMPANY, LTD.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), made an application to His Lordship, under the Companies Ordinances of 1877 and 1886, for permission to reduce the capital of the Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving & Dyeing Company, Ltd., which Company incorporated on 10th August, 1897, with a nominal capital of \$1,200,000 divided into 12,000 shares of \$100 each. Of these shares only 9,000, representing capital to the amount of \$900,000, were issued and fully paid. The remaining 3,000 shares had not been issued, it being found impossible to do so. Under-capitalised to start with, the Company has not been a success, and, Mr. Francis said, at the present time was in debt to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Company, the General Managers, to the extent of over \$1,000,000, monies advanced by them at various times for the purposes of the Company. In addition, capital amounting to \$810,000—being \$80 a share on 9,000 shares—had been either lost or was unrepresented by available assets. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Company were the only creditors. Under these circumstances it had been deemed advisable by

the General Managers and by the Consulting Committee to reduce the capital by compelling (1) the 3,000 unissued shares and (2) the lost capital of \$810,000. Accordingly a resolution to that effect was passed and duly confirmed at meetings held on 27th June and 13th July last. By this resolution the capital is reduced to \$90,000, in 9,000 fully paid up shares of \$10 each.

His Lordship granted the application.

Monday, 12th August.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISS (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST LI YUNG.

The hearing of evidence having concluded yesterday morning in the charge against Li Yung of (1) obtaining the sum of \$5,000 by false pretences and (2) uttering a forged document, counsel addressed His Lordship. The jury retired at nearly half-past two, and were absent for forty minutes. On re-entering Court the foreman intimated that they were unanimous in finding the prisoner not guilty on all five counts of the charge.

In reply to His Lordship, Mr. Pollock said he did not propose to proceed with the remaining nine counts of indictment.

His Lordship—Well, I had better instruct the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty on the other counts.

Counsel did not see the necessity for this step until it was pointed out that the prisoner had been indicted, when they concurred with the step proposed by His Lordship.

The jury, without leaving the box, then returned an unanimous verdict of not guilty on the remaining counts, and the prisoner was discharged.

Addressing the jury, His Lordship said—Although I have no power under the Ordinance, I think you ought to be exempt from serving again till the end of the next jury year—March, 1903.

The Court then adjourned sine die.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor) prosecuted, and Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. J. F. Reece, solicitor), defended.

Wednesday, 14th August.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISS (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATION FOR HABEAS CORPUS.

Mr. E. H. Sharpe, instructed by Mr. Mounsey, applied to His Lordship for a writ of habeas corpus, to be served on the Superintendent of Police of this colony, to produce the body of one Leung Kun Yau, alias Leung A Su, who is at present detained by the police under a order of banishment from H. E. the Governor.

Mr. Sharp in explanation of his application stated that his client after serving a six weeks' sentence for larceny was detained by the police under an order for banishment for five years. The order was presumably issued under Section 3, Banishment Ordinance of 1882, and an amendment to said Ordinance, contained in Ordinance 4 of 1885, Section 1.

Counsel further stated that the police had been applied to for a copy of the order of banishment, but had refused to give one.

His Lordship—Refused?

Counsel—Yes, your Lordship.

His Lordship—I suppose they ignored your request?

Counsel—No, Your Lordship. We have received a letter from the Captain Superintendent of Police (reading letter) wherein he flatly declines to let us have a copy of the order. As we have not seen a copy of the order, I only assume the order was granted according to the Banishment Ordinance previously alluded to, and if that is the case, the order is illegal, as the man to be banished under this order is a British-born subject, and consequently such order could not be issued. The Banishment Ordinance says that the Governor in Council has power to prohibit anyone not born a British subject

from residing in the colony. Now my client was born on the 26th March, 1878, at Hongkong. He has always lived here, his mother was born here, and his father, grand-father, and great-grand-father are buried here.

His Lordship—Do you contend that the man is a British subject?

Counsel—Certainly, Your Lordship. He is a naturally born subject of his Majesty the King.

His Lordship—If a Frenchman was born in London would you consider him to be a British subject?

Counsel—Yes, Your Lordship, if the Frenchmen's parents were domiciled in London. Now our client's people have been domiciled here for the past three generations; there is no doubt of this whatever.

His Lordship—Where is the order for banishment?

Counsel—That is the trouble, Your Lordship: we have been unable to obtain a copy of the order. We applied for it, but were refused by the Captain-Superintendent, nor did he give any reason for his refusal.

His Lordship—He need not give a reason.

Counsel—I know, Your Lordship. There have only been two cases of this nature during the past eighteen years. If no reason is given, the order cannot be legal.

His Lordship—We must have the order. Your reasons are just. We will make the writ returnable on Saturday morning next at ten o'clock. Your man is in gaol?

Counsel—He is in police custody, within the prison premises.

His Lordship—He is safe then.

Counsel—He is allowed to walk around in custody of a Chinese constable.

His Lordship—Well, he can't get away then. All right, make the writ returnable for Saturday next.

HONGKONG.

Apart from the 10 cases of plague (6 in Victoria, 4 outside), with 12 deaths, last week there were not reported any cases of communicable disease in the colony.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak has been appointed by H.E. the Governor a member of the Sanitary Board for three years from the 8th inst.; vice Mr. Chan A Fook, resigned.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, reported his return from leave of absence and resumed his duties on the 5th inst.

The Netherlands Consul-General, M. Droeze, informed us on the 13th inst. that the quarantine regulations which were in force in Netherlands-India against arrivals from this port on account of small-pox are now withdrawn, the quarantine regulations on account of plague still remaining in force. It is curious to think that we have been in quarantine for small-pox so very long after the occurrence of the last case.

A Chinese junk was attacked by pirates in British waters on Wednesday night, and after killing two men and wounding one the assailant departed, taking with them \$30 worth of clothing. The police, arriving on the scene too late to prevent the pirates' escape, found, we understand (though the police will give no details as to this) no less than \$1,400 on board, which had been overlooked. The two dead men were conveyed to the mortuary.

On the 13th inst. the closing performance of the Australian Vandeville and Specialty Co. duly came off at the Theatre Royal, when a good house assembled to bid our visitors good-bye. Once more the whole of the lower part of the building was full of enthusiastic listeners, and encores were the order of the night, while the bouquet, such a feature of Hongkong theatrical entertainments, was much in evidence. Miss Beatrice Warde, the Misses Ruby and Annie Moore, Miss Verne and Miss Ford all won much applause with their singing. Miss Virgie Rose sang and danced excellently, and the Sisters Linwood were energetic as ever. Mr. Horley was in his best form, as was Mr. Rowley, and Mr. Culley was heard to advantage, while in the second part of the programme Professor Davis added to his reputation as a clever conjurer. The performances closed at a late hour. It only remains to wish our parting guests a good voyage on the *Kuonong* on the 14th, and a successful season down South.

Owing to the death of H. I. M. Empress Frederick of Germany, all officers and warrant officers of the Garrison will wear mourning for six weeks from the 6th inst. The order, of course, extends to the Volunteer Corps.

The auction of landed property at Yaumati, held by Messrs. Hughes and Hough, proved a failure. A large crowd of Chinese gathered about, but no purchasers. There were six lots to be sold. The auction started with Lot 6, at an off-set bid of \$1,500 and the bidding rose to \$3,000, when the lot was withdrawn. Lot 5 fared even worse: it was started at \$1,000 and had to be withdrawn at \$1,200.

Only three cases of plague (Chinese) and four deaths (Chinese) were reported in the colony since noon on the 10th inst. The lad Starers, taken from Pedder's Hill, has been found not to be suffering from plague after all, but from malarial fever, and was removed on Friday from the Kennedytown Plague Hospital to the Government Civil Hospital, where he is doing well.

The following are the returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st July, 1901, as certified by the managers of the respective banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	2,722,233	1,600,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	8,075,467	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	440,485	150,000
Total	\$11,238,235	6,750,000

The steamer *City of Calcutta* arrived in the harbour from Singapore shortly after five o'clock on the 10th inst. This vessel was recently bought by a Singapore shipping firm, Messrs. Wee Bin & Company, from Messrs. George Smith & Company, Glasgow, for \$150,000, and was fitted up and repaired at Singapore at an estimated cost of \$60,000. She is the third vessel bought from the "City" Line Company by the Wee Bin firm, the *City of London* and the *City of Edinburgh* having already been similarly acquired. The *City of Calcutta*, like the other vessels of the Wee Bin Company's fleet, is destined for the coolie emigration traffic and the carrying of general cargo between Penang, Singapore, Hongkong, Amoy, and Swatow. Her total tonnage is 2,555 tons, and she is the largest locally owned steamer sailing out of Singapore. Her speed is twelve knots, and on the voyage from Singapore, which was accomplished in two hours over five days, her average rate of travelling was 11.6 knots an hour. The vessel is splendidly fitted, and is electrically lighted throughout. There is accommodation on board for two thousand coolies, whose comfort is well looked after, their quarters between decks being kept fresh and cool by two large steam fans which are kept going almost continually. The *City of Calcutta* is commanded by Captain Dawson, formerly of the steamer *Charterhouse*, belonging to the same company, and the agent here is Mr. Joo Tek Seng. The steamer, which has on board 700 coolies going to Amoy, has proceeded to that port.

H.M.S. *Glory* left the harbour on the 10th inst. for Weihaiwei and the storeship *Humber* left for the same port on the 11th inst.

The British gunboat *Pigmy* left on the 12th inst. for Canton and the transport *Mirani* for Taku. The transports *Itala* and *Chingtao* arrived on the 12th inst. from Taku.

The British transports *Canning* and *Claver* arrived on the 13th inst. from Weihaiwei and Calcutta respectively.

The minute-gun firing in the Harbour, led by H.M.S. *Tamer*, commenced at 5.30 p.m. on the 13th inst., on account of the Empress Frederick's funeral.

The transport *Chingtao*, which arrived on the 13th inst. from the North, has on board a number of Indian troops, including a company of pom-pom artillery. The remainder of the Siege Train (15th Company, Southern Division, Royal Garrison Artillery), who have been encamped at Kowloon, embarked on the steamer. The *Chingtao* left on the 13th inst. evening with the *Itala* for Calcutta.

H.M.S. *Dido* went into dock on the 14th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The delay in the signing of the Protocol is due to England objecting to Powers with microscopic commercial interests enjoying an equal voice with herself on the proposed international tariff revision commission.

The Chinese Consul's official position at Manila is in danger, H.E. Wu, Chinese Ambassador to Washington, having sent a commission to Manila to investigate the consul's official conduct. All depends upon that commission's report.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 2nd inst. says that the Russians recently landed a great number of boxes during the night at Newchwang. The landing was effected with great secrecy, and the consignment is said to have consisted of a large amount of powder and ammunition.

The erratic "Doctor" Russell, who has a fondness for paying his bill with bogus cheques and was wanted by the Manila police, was caught at Dagupan, the end terminus of the Manila railway. The same doctor was much enquired for at Hongkong some time ago, it will be remembered.

There has been a good deal of discussion in the Singapore Press about the alleged disloyalty to King Edward shown in an address to Prince Chun from the leading Straits-born Chinese. The matter, however, seems to resolve itself into one of ambiguity of expression and an over-free translation from the Chinese original into English.

A strike is reported from Ichang. The Magistrate of Tungwu manages the taxes on houses and shops in Ichang City. It is said he has exacted taxes and extorted money by false promises, therefore all the shops are striking. The magistrate sent his servants to beat along the street to order the shops to open again, but they are afraid and dare not comply with his request. The Magistrate is anxious about the matter.

The latest return of the foreign residents in Kowloon shows that there are already 2,031 males and 670 females. The leading nationalities come out as follows:—China; 1,288 males, 367 females; Great Britain, 350 males, 158 females; Germany, 135 males, 38 females; United States, 94 males, 63 females; Portugal, 53 males, 16 females; France, 36 males, 17 females. Australia and Canada are given separate headings from Great Britain and add another 4 males and 3 females.

The following staff appointment is gazetted:—Colonel (local Major-General) G. L. R. Richardson, C.B., C.I.E., Indian Staff Corps, to command a Brigade at Shanghai with effect from the date of assuming duty. The following appointments are made to the Staff of the China Expedition:—Captain G. H. C. Colomb, Indian Staff Corps, to be a Deputy-Assistant Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General; J. J. P. Quinn, Indian Staff Corps, to be a Provost-Marshal; J. A. Douglas, Indian Staff Corps, to be a Special Service Officer.

A vigorous criticism of the troops of nations other than Germany appeared recently in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, in the course of which very uncomplimentary remarks were made of our Indian troops with their effeminate appearance and lack of muscle. A Tientsin correspondent writes pointing out that if absurd it was at any rate amusing to read of the muscleless condition of the Indian troops, who managed so easily to pull over their Russians and other rivals in the "tug-of-war." Probably the German writer's eye-sight was not good enough to enable him to distinguish between troops and camp-followers; at least it is charitable to suppose so.

A circular has been issued by the newly started Stock Exchange at Shanghai to members on the subject of Sharebrokers' commissions. It reads: "Upon the requisition of ten members, an extraordinary general meeting of the Association is called for 5 p.m. on Monday the 12th inst., to consider and, if approved, to pass the following Resolutions:—That on and after the 1st of Sept., next, the scale of brokerage be altered as follows:—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares 1 per cent. from seller and 1 per cent. from buyer. All other Stocks and Debentures 1 per cent. from seller and 1 per cent. from buyer. Stocks bought from Hongkong 1 per cent. from buyer." The circular is signed Geo. D. Scott, Secretary.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	1,955	1,384
Yokohama	35,148	34,734
	36,103	36,118

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Yokohama	13,240,755	13,099,068
Kobe		
Hiogo	6,498,079	7,154,042

19,738,834 20,253,716

SILK.

CANTON, 3rd August:—Taatees.—No settlements have transpired. Re-reels.—One or two transactions have been effected on the basis of \$580 for No. 1, but business in this class of silk is very limited. Filatures.—The demand, which was moderate at the opening of the fortnight, has since then gradually increased, and a good general business has resulted. The higher grades and fine sizes were specially wanted. Prices have risen \$20 per picul, and holders are only willing to sell at a further advance. Waste.—The market has fallen quieter owing to the higher prices asked by the dealers. Rates are nevertheless maintained owing to the scarcity of stock.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	12,849	14,019
Yokohama	31,440	21,413
	44,208	35,432

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—Prices are advancing the tone of the market having improved. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.55 to \$8.60	pcl.
do. 2, White	7.95 to 8.00	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.85 to 5.90	"
do. 2, Brown	5.65 to 5.70	"
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.45 to 8.50	"
do. 1, White	7.90 to 7.95	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.65 to 5.70	"
do. 2, Brown	5.45 to 5.50	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.65 to 12.70	"
Shekloong	11.30 to 11.35	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—The upward tendency continues, market being very brisk. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.60 to 2.65
do. Round, Good quality	3.65 to 3.70
do. Long	3.80 to 3.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.55 to 2.60
do. Garden, No. 1	3.35 to 3.40
do. White	4.15 to 4.20
do. Fine Cargo	4.35 to 4.40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *America Maru*, sailed on the 4th July. For San Francisco:—20 cases silkgoods. For *La Libertad*:—4 cases silkgoods. For *Corinto*:—2 cases silkgoods. For *Panama*:—6 cases silkgoods. For *Valparaiso*:—4 cases silkgoods. For *Guayaquil*:—2 cases silkgoods. For *New York*:—1 case silkgoods, 258 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *City of Peking*, sailed on the 13th July. For San Francisco:—18 cases silkgoods. For *La Libertad*:—1 case silkgoods. For *Punta Arenas*:—2 cases silkgoods. For *Champerico*:—3 cases silkgoods. For *Panama*:—10 cases silkgoods. For *Iquique*:—3 cases silkgoods. For *Guayaquil*:—5 cases silkgoods. For *New York*:—75 bales raw silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—Bengal.—There was much activity during the first half of the period under review, and prices advanced to New Patna \$9621, New Benares \$935, Old Patna \$975, and Old Benares \$945. Subsequently a very quiet feeling prevailed. We close New Patna \$9574, New Benares \$9274, Old Patna \$9724 and Old Benares \$945 nominal.

Malwa:—On account of the small arrival there was some improvement in the market, and a fair amount of business was transacted at the following quotations:—

This Year's New	at \$850
Last	860
2 Years' Old	870
3	880
4/5	890/900

Persian.—There was nothing doing in this drug.

STOCK.

Patna	2,461
Benares	708
Malwa	634
Persian	2,386

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—Only superior description has had attention, values are a shade weaker. Stock about 4,500 bales.

Bombay	18.00 to 19.00	piculs
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	19.00 to 23.00	"
Shanghai and Japanese	22.50 to 24.00	"
Tungchow and Ningpo	22.50 to 24.00	"
Sale	1,034 bales	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 16th August.—Towards the close of last week the market became quiet, buyers holding off for the arrival of the steamers *Bisagno*, *Maragon*, *Mike Maru* and *Pekin*, as they were known to have heavy cargoes on board. On arrival, receipts (24,236 bales) proved to be larger than anticipated, and our stocks are heavily augmented. The sales (10,554 bales) were made during the first half of the interval, or are the result of earlier negotiations, and include a large proportion of goods to arrive for more or less long delivery. Since then nothing of importance has been done; importers are getting alarmed and have dropped their selling rates half to one dollar per bale, but no new business can be induced, as in addition to the settlements already alluded to, the present requirements of dealers are satisfied by receipt of goods previously purchased to arrive. Stocks are far in excess of requirements, and will be shortly augmented by further heavy receipts on the waters and now close at hand, and unless the stream of shipments from Bombay is promptly checked, the aspect of the market at the close points to a continuance of the decline.

Local Manufacture.—Local Mill quotations are maintained at \$90 for No. 10s., and \$92 for No. 12s., at which sales of about 500 bales are reported.

Japanese Spinnings.—A blank fortnight has been experienced in these threads. Importations are checked by continued unfavourable rates of exchange and abnormal high rates ruling in Japan. With the exception of a few rising transactions amongst the natives, no business is practicable, and we repeat late quotations, say \$104 to \$107 for No. 16s. and \$116 to \$109 for No. 20s., market closing strong.

Raw Cotton.—Indian descriptions are steady, but experiencing little demand, especially in the ordinary run of stuff. Both Japanese exporters and the local mill are out of the market, the native local dealers being alone responsible for the entire business of the fortnight, say 965 bales Bengal at from \$20 to \$22, leaving an estimated unsold stock of about 5,000 bales on the market. There is no stock of old China description in the place and the new season Cotton has not made its appearance. Quotations are—Bengal \$18 to \$22, Decca \$19 to \$23, and China \$22 to \$24.

Exchange on India has continued steady with but little fluctuation, and closes to-day at Rs. 145 for T/T, Rs. 143 for Post. On Shanghai 73, and on Yokohama 6 per cent. premium.

The undenoted business in imported and local spinnings are reported from Shanghai from 20th July to 1st instant, viz.:—

Indian.—Total sales 8,083 bales, comprising 5,040 bales No. 10s., 363 bales No. 12s., 400 bales No. 16s., and 2,882 bales No. 20s., prices with the exceptions of a rise of half a Tael in No. 10s., remaining with little alteration as those last given, and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 35,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales 1,200 bales on the basis of Tls. 77 to 80 for No. 16s., and Tls. 78 to Tls. 81 for No. 20s., prices showing an improvement of half a Tael and market closing strong.

Local.—Total sales about 8,700 bales at Tls. 69 to Tls. 70 for No. 10s., Tls. 71 to Tls. 73 for No. 12s., Tls. 73 to 77 for No. 14s., and Tls. 78 to 79 for No. 16s., rates showing an advance of half to one Tael, but market closing weak.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—Sales of Japanese to the extent of 25,000 tons are reported. Prices are better. Holders are firmer in their demands owing to heavy floods reported in Moji district.

Cardiff....\$20.00 to 21.00, weak, ex ship nominal

Australian \$12.00 to 12.50 ex godown,

nominal

Yubari Lump ...\$12.00 to 12.50 ex godown,

nominal

Miiki Lump....\$10. ex ship

Moji Lump\$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady

Hongay double } 10.50 ex godown

screened } nominal

Hongay Lump.... 8.50 ex ship

Hongay Dust 6.00 "

Briquettes 16.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARNS AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 100 bales No. 6 at \$79, 150 bales No. 8 at \$80, to \$83, 1,050 bales No. 10 at \$88 to \$97, 450 bales No. 12 at \$88 to \$92, 950 bales No. 16 at \$98 to \$104.50, 1,200 bales No. 20 at \$100 to \$103. Black Velveteen: 120 pieces Yellow Stag at \$0.21, 120 pieces at \$0.21. Long Ells: 100 pieces 8 lbs. Green and Purple at \$7.25 10C pieces Purple Green at \$7.25, 125 pieces 7 lbs. Green Man and Horse at \$0.75, 125 pieces 8 lbs. St. Stag at \$7, 600 pieces 78 yards W. S. Gold Elephant at \$70.24.

METALS.—Wire Nails: 1,230 kegs at \$5. Round Rolled Iron: 1,000 bundles at \$7.80 to arrive.

New Rolled Soft Steelrod: 1,000 bundles at \$4.00 to arrive, 1,000 bundles at \$4.00 to arrive.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	\$74.00 to \$111.00
English—Nos. 18 to 24	

Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 40.00	to	—
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 39.00	to	—
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 39.00	to	—
Composition Nails.....	63.00	to
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	42.00	to
Tin.....	69.25	to
Tin-Plates	7.40	per box.
Steel & Co.	5.75	per cwt. case
New Chops 14/20 oz. —	—	—

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—A quiet week has again to be recorded, our market closing with little of interest to report in any of the principal stocks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai's have ruled weak, and close with sellers at 387½ per cent. premium. Bank of Chinas and Nationals are unchanged at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed in small lots at \$340, and China Traders at \$59. We have heard of no further business under this head.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have sold and are on offer at \$340. China Fires have changed hands at \$83 and \$82, and close with sellers at the higher rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have been sold at \$34½, and more can be had. Indo-Chinas are on offer at \$138. Chin-Manilas can be obtained at \$61. Douglasses are procurable at \$54. Star Ferries have sold and are in further request at \$24½ and \$9½ for the old and new shares respectively. Shell Transports are on offer at £2. 12s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—Chin Sugars have declined to \$142, at which shares may probably be had. Luzons are on offer at \$36.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold and are obtainable at \$5½. Queen Mines have sold at 4 cents. Jelebus are wanted at \$4½. Raubs have been placed at \$12½ to \$13, and there are further buyers at the former rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been done down to \$280 cash and for the end of the month. There is now, however, a somewhat better feeling in the market, and we close with a demand for the stock at \$285. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are on offer at \$99. New Amey Docks are wanted at \$24½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$191 to \$190 cash and for the settlement. West Points have been placed at \$50. Hongkong Hotels have been bought at \$128, \$129 and \$130, and are obtainable at the last named quotation. Humphreys Estates have been done at \$13.

COTTON MILLS.—The only item of interest is a continued enquiry for Hongkong Cottons at \$10½. The northern stocks are unchanged with sellers at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments continue or offer at \$50. Green Island Cements have been sold freely at \$21½, and shares are offering at \$21½. Watsons are to be had at \$16. Hongkong Electrics have been booked at \$12½ and \$12½ (old) and at \$6½ (new) and there are further buyers. Hongkong Ropes are quiet at \$17½. Ices are dull at \$181. Steam Water-boats are wanted at \$8. Dairy Farms sold and have buyers at \$8. United Asbestos have been booked at \$10 and \$10½, and are now on offer at the lower rate. China Providents have sold at \$9½. Universal Trading Co.'s shares have improved to \$20½, and are wanted. Tobacco Trusts continue on offer at \$50.

MEMOS:—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Limited, ordinary half-yearly meeting to-morrow, 17th instant. Universal Trading Company, annual meeting of shareholders, to-morrow, 17th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders on the 19th instant. Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Company, Limited (in Liquidation), extraordinary general meeting of preference shareholders on the 24th instant. Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders on the 21st instant. The China Sugar Refining Company, Limited, has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent.

for the half-year ended 30th June last, payable on the 24th instant. Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited, invite applications for 58,000 new shares of \$10 each up to and including the 27th instant, on which date the lists close.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	387½ p. c. t. prm.— \$609.37½, sellers. L'don, £61. 15s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	15s.
Do. deferred	£1	£5. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1. 10.
Campbell, Moor & Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd	\$15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$9½, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$142, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	\$1,500, sellers
Philippine Tobacco) Invest. Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kun, Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 15, sellers
Hongkong	\$100	\$10½, buyers
Dairy Farm	80	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$21½, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$10	\$12½, sales & buys.
H. H. L. Tramways ...	85	\$61, sales & buyers
Hk. Steam Water { boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$275.
Hongkong Hotel	850	\$130, sellers
Hongkong Ice	25	\$181.
H. & K. Wharf & G...	850	\$90, sellers
Hongkong Rope	850	\$172½.
H. & W. Dock	850	\$285, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$83, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sales & sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 175.
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340.
Yangtze	\$60	\$122½, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$190.
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$13, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	850	\$50.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$36, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 250	\$325.
Jelebu	85	\$44, buyers
Queen's Mines, Ltd...	25c.	4 cents, sales
Olivers Mines, A....	85	nominal.
Do. B....	84	nominal.
Punjom	89	\$51, sellers
Do. Preference...	81	\$1.
Raubs	18	\$12½, sales & buys.
New Amoy Dock	86	\$24½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	850	\$60, sellers
Powell, Ltd.....	\$10	\$10, nominal
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila	850	\$61, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	840	81.
China Ordinary	210	£12.
Do.	210	£12.
Douglas Steamship	85	854, sellers
H. Canton and M...	815	\$344, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	Tls. 138, sellers
Shell Transport and {	21	£2. 12s. 6d. sales
Trading Co.		[& sellers
Star Ferry	810	(\$21½, sales & buys.)
Tebrau Planting Co...	85	\$1.
United Asbestos	84	\$10, sellers
Do.	810	\$15.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	85	\$20½, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse...	837½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	810	\$104, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	810	\$16, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 8th July (From Messrs. J. P. Biasset & Co.'s Report). The market for shares during the past week has been a slack one, owing to a heavy settlement for end of July and the interruption of the Midsummer Bank Holidays. **BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. No business is reported. The Hongkong quotation is 395 per cent. nom. and the London rate £21. 10s. 0d. **INSURANCE.**—Marine.—North Chinas changed hands at Tls. 192.50; other stocks are unchanged. Fires have not been dealt in. Hongkongs have sellers at \$345 in Hongkong. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-China S. N. Co.—The market has been dull and the only transactions reported are a settlement sale at Tls. 102.50 for cash and a sale for November at Tls. 107. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd. A dividend of \$1.50 for half-year is expected and the addition of \$50,000 Dividend Equalisation Fund. Shares changed hands in Hongkong up to \$35.75, market closing with buyers. Shell Transport and Trading Co.'s shares are offering. **SUGAR.**—Peraks and Chinas are offering; the closing Hongkong rate of latter stock is given at \$140. **MINING.**—Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd. The accounts for the year to 31st March show the net proceeds of ore crushings at £40,237. 6s. 8d. (as against £41,421. 6s. 6d. for the previous year) at credit of Profit and Loss Account; a further sum of £10,525. 72s. has been credited to this account in connection with erection of electrical installation (now transferred) to plant account, making a total sum of £59,762. 13s. 10d. Against this, Management Expenses come to £41,221. 15s. 8d. Dividends were paid amounting to £20,000, £2,980. 3s. 10d. has been written off for Depreciation and including a balance of £8,364. 8s. 3d. brought forward from last year, present year shows a debit balance of £12,812. 13s. 6d. which is carried forward to new account. Shares sold locally at \$13. Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd. A brisk business was done in the early part of the week and shares changed hands up to Tls. 315 for cash. Shares were let go later in the absence of buyers at Tls. 200. The following settlements were made: 315 for 31st inst., 820 for September, 325, 327.50 and 295 for October, 830, for November, 330, 335, 325 and 315 for December. Quotation is now taken at equivalent of one £1 fully paid up share. **Docks, WHARVES & GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Shares sold at Tls. 255 to 260 for cash, cum new issue, allotment of which is to be made after 2nd inst. A sale is reported later at Tls. 262.50 for 31st inst. ex new issue. A settlement was made at Tls. 275 for November. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 300 cash; shares are offering for October. **LANDS.**—Shanghais changed hands at Tls. 100 and are wanted. **INDUSTRIAL.**—In Cotton Mills, Internationals were settled at Tls. 35, and Yah Loongs at 12.50; these and the other mill stocks are offering. Ice shares are wanted. Flour Mills sold at Tls. 40 and are offering. Moutrie and Co. shares were placed at \$55. Green Island Cement shares are offering. **Tugs AND CARGO BOATS.**—Taku Tugs are wanted. Shanghai and Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.'s An interim dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year to 30th June, has been declared payable on 8th inst. The Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. will pay a further bonus of 10 per cent. to contributors of business. A cash sale of these shares is reported at Tls. 132.50. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Sumatra Tobacco shares sold at Tls. 45 and are offering. Lankat Tobacco market is quiet. The nominal cash quotation is Tls. 357.50; a settlement is reported for 31st inst. at Tls. 360. Hall and Holtz were taken at \$35; shares are offering at \$34. Central Stores changed hands at \$20 and are wanted. Mercury shares were taken at Tls. 55. Tsingtau Hotel shares are offering. Astor House Hotel market has been quiet. **DEBENTURES.**—Nothing is doing, though 6 per cent investments are in request.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 16th August.

EXCHANGE.

On LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1 11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½

ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.44
Credits, 4 months' sight.....	2.47½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.98
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight.....	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	6
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	3½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	4
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	117½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1½
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.23
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53.50
BAR SILVER per oz.	26½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 16th August.—The volume of business transacted during the period under review is about the same as that of the preceding fortnight. Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul has been paid for prompt steamer and more tonnage is wanted at 21½ cents per picul; to one port Philippines, 38 cents per picul; to one port north coast Java, 31 cents per picul is obtainable. Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul for dry sugar, and 40 cents per picul last. Newchwang to Canton, 33 cents per picul has been paid. Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30; to Singapore, \$3 per ton.

The following are the settlements:—

Seawitch—American ship, 1,172 tons, proceeds San Francisco in ballast.

Protector—Norwegian steamer, 1,639 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.

Amigo—German steamer, 322 tons, Newchwang to Canton (19,000 piculs), 34 cents per picul.

Foochow—British steamer, 1,253 tons, Newchwang to Canton (20,000 piculs), 34 cents per picul.

Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Newchwang to Canton (22,000 piculs), 34 cents per picul.

Tedo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,038 tons, Newchwang to Canton (22,000 piculs), 34 cents per picul.

Sabine Rickmers—British steamer, 690 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 34 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton (22,000 piculs), 33 cents per picul.

Sishan—British steamer, 84 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Faz—Belgian steamer, 1,032 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21½ cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

Esmeralda—British steamer, 93½ tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 38 cents per picul.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 37 cents per picul.

A B. & S. steamer, Saigon to Tjilatjap (45,000 piculs), 39 cents per picul.

Gernina—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Saigon to Tjilatjap, 40 cents per picul.

Piccola—German steamer, 875 tons, Saigon to Iloilo or Cebu, 39 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 31 cents per picul.

Babelsberg—German steamer, 1,878 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, wet sugar, 40 cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,030 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$6,750 per month.

Peiyang—German steamer, 1,039 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$6,350 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.	
FOR ANTWERP.—	Kawachi Maru (str.).
FOR LONDON.—	Peleus (str.), Coromandel (str.), Ajax (str.), Stentor (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Idomeneus (str.), Banca (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—	Orestes (str.).
FOR MARSEILLE.—	Banca (str.), Oceanien (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—	Konig Albert (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—	Alexandria (str.), Sibilia (str.), Andalusia (str.), Arabia (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—	Clavering (str.), Kaga Maru (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER.—	Empress of India (str.), Atienian (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—	Nippon Maru (str.), Peru (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—	Heathburn (str.), Ataka (str.), L. Schepp, I. F. Chapman, Manuel Llaguno.
FOR SAN DIEGO.—	Strathgyle (str.).
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—	Kasuga Maru (str.).
FOR MANILA, SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—	Melpomene (str.).
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—	Yamaguchi Maru (str.).

Per Canning, from Weihaiwei, Mrs. and Miss Powell.

Per Kwang Lee, from Shanghai, Messrs. A. Hartley, Guggits, Mattos and Rosario.

Per Yamaguchi Maru, from Yokohama, Mr. L. F. A. Butterworth.

Per Thales, from Coast Ports, Messrs. A. J. Sangar and Nakagawa and Master N. Blake.

Per Nuen Tung, from Sydney, Messrs. Knoth, Windhorst, Schulz, Schenkewitz and Wenzel.

Per Nippon Maru, from San Francisco, &c., Dr. and Mrs. L. H. Fales, Mrs. Grace Cohen, Mrs. Daisy Wilson, Mrs. B. Browning, Mrs. Geo. Eckley, Mrs. M. A. Jewett, Mr. and Mrs. L. Knox, Major M. J. Whitty, Messrs. G. H. Hanman, C. F. Bilbrough and Frank Ilse.

Per Sanuki Maru, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. P. List, Messrs. R. McGregor, H. Bell, Pearce, C. Robertshaw, Manns, and L. Y. Whatt; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Kent and Mr. E. Agassiz; for Kobe, Messrs. U. Komori, K. Nakano, E. Kondo, K. Kaiko, N. Fujiye, W. Hiroso; and S. Nagano; for Yokohama, Messrs. A. F. Worthington, Bourman, R. Fujii, K. Tomura, and N. Makino, Mrs. K. Nakano, and Major Souchi.

Per Sungkang, from Manila, Capt. E. M. Surples, U.S.A., Messrs. A. Philipps and A. R. Jones.

DEPARTED.

Per Loongkang, for Manila, Messrs. J. F. Wright, R. K. Bonine, A. D. Gibb, G. M. Navice, Stephen S. Huse, Jr., T. E. Evans, Peter Harding, and E. B. Cuahing.

Per Sudo Maru, for Europe, H.E. The Minister of Siam and Madame Ronachet and three children, Messrs. Samuel Paxton, F. T. Buchanan, Moore, Jones, Magel, Morrison, McConechy, H. Bloon, T. Fenner, P. Ranshyzen, W. H. Brown, C. Clausen, Ed. Gordon, A. J. Martina, S. A. Gainsford, C. H. Meares, Y. S. Schwabe, Dr. M. Sellmayer, Comdr. K. Nomaguchi, Messrs. Micheron, Y. Yamamoto, Noi-nom, K. Yamada, T. Umekawa, Y. Kamisaka, M. Miyakawa, and S. Toyosaki.

Per Stuttgart, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mrs. W. A. Hoffmann; for Colombo, Dr. B. L. Layton; for Genoa, Messrs. E. Vollack and W. Jrschlinger; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Stainton and Dr. Erant; for Bremen, Messrs. C. Buttner and R. Feldtmann.

Per Perlo, for Manila, Mrs. W. Leathe and child, Mr. and Mrs. Bovard, Capt. F. H. Delano, U.S.M.C., Lieut. A. C. Rogers, U.S.M.C., Messrs. J. M. C. Gardner, H. I. Hennage, J. E. Findley, C. Pascual, Wm. T. G. Sterling, Tang Niani, N. Moers, W. R. Berry, C. Reyes, Mrs. Yosi Sone and Mrs. Kano Sone.

Per Malacca, from Hongkong, for London, Major R. F. Percy, R.M.L.I., and Mr. R. J. Harris, R.N.; from Shanghai, Mrs. Daldy and infant and Miss M. Carroll.

Per Yarra, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. F. P. da Silva, Miss M. G. dos Remedios, Messrs. H. Humphreys, W. Petersen and J. B. Stanley; for Nagasaki, Mr. Paul Kohn; for Yokohama, Messrs. Gabriel and James Cheung.

Per Tartar, for Shanghai, Miss Ida Buchan; for Kobe, Mr. Allan Cameron and Lieut. W. L. Jolly; for Yokohama, Messrs. J. W. S. McLeod and H. B. Darnell; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lincoln, Lieut. F. E. Buchan, Messrs. A. B. Bowers, D. J. O'Connell and J. J. Emery; for London, Messrs. J. P. Rae, Edw. T. Bailey, and Major Wilson.

Per Yuensang, for Manila, Major and Mrs. O'Rafferty, U.S.A., Mrs. Mary Strittmatter, Capt. E. V. Smith, Major L. W. Crampton, Messrs. M. L. Stewart, R. W. Smith, Levy Fernand, and F. Domingo.

Per Doric, for Shanghai, Mr. R. McGregor; for Nagasaki, Misses R. Thompson and M. Mitchell; for Yokohama, Mrs. S. A. Shelton, Mrs. A. J. Jeffery, Staff-Surgeon and Mrs. Canton, R.N., Mrs. H. Stone, Lieut. D. P. Minoli, U.S.N., Messrs. J. B. Taylor and A. W. Brown; for San Francisco, Mr. Geo. E. Thompson; for Portland (Or.), Mr. James Flaherty; for Tacoma, Mr. W. H. Stoyer; for Chicago, Mr. W. H. Cox; for London, Capt. Harrison, R.E., and Capt. Eardley Russell, R.A.